DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 426 254 CE 077 934

TITLE	Working Hands and Active Minds. The Voices of Workers. An Anthology of Participant Writings from the Worker Education Program.
INSTITUTION	Northeastern Illinois Univ., Chicago. Chicago Teachers' Center.
SPONS AGENCY	Office of Vocational and Adult Education (ED), Washington, DC. National Workplace Literacy Program.
PUB DATE	1996-00-00
NOTE	78p.; For "Worker Education Program" guides, see CE 077 952-953.
PUB TYPE	Creative Works (030)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC04 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Adult Basic Education; *Adult Literacy; Anthologies; Asian Americans; Education Work Relationship; Educational Attitudes; Essays; Hispanic Americans; Immigrants; Journal Writing; *Literacy Education; *Needle Trades; Partnerships in Education; Poetry; School Business Relationship; *Student Attitudes; *Student Publications; Unions; Work Attitudes; *Workplace Literacy

ABSTRACT

This document is an anthology of participant writings from the Worker Education Program, which is a holistic workplace literacy program developed through a partnership among Northeastern Illinois University (NIU) and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textiles Workers Union (ACTWU). The document begins with a brief overview of the Worker Education Program and background information on NIU and the ACTWU and their efforts in the area of workplace literacy. Next, the writings--mostly poems, essays, and journal entries--of the Worker Education Program's participants are presented. The writings are organized by the following themes: working for a living (79 pieces); life outside the workplace (45 pieces); the Worker Education Program and the opportunities for learning that it provides (79 pieces); work and labor--past and future (30 pieces); and the immigrant experience (29 pieces). Most writings are in English; however, a few pieces are in Spanish. Concluding the document is a list of the 13 companies participating in the Worker Education Program. (MN)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED 426 254

Working Hands and Active Minds

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

- ☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
- ☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
- • Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

OE077934

WORKING
HANDS
AND
ACTIVE
MINDS
THE VOICES
OF WORKERS

Table of Contents

Message from the Director 1

A Word about the Sponsors 3

Introduction 7

Student Work

Working for a Living 9

Life Outside the Workplace 25

Worker Education Program 35

Work and Labor: Past and Future 55

The Immigrant Experience 65

Participating Companies 75

Special Thanks 77

Integrating Language and Workplace Skills for Worker Enhancement

Margaret Boyter-Escalona
Director, Worker Education Program

The Worker Education Program is a partnership between Northeastern Illinois University and the Central States Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) coordinated through the Chicago Teachers' Center. This program, funded by a grant from the National Workplace Literacy Program of the U.S. Department of Education, has provided adult union members with classes in English as a Second Language, Reading and Writing, Math, Communications for the Workplace, Problem-Solving, and Teamwork.

Since 1992, the program has served over 2,000 members of ACTWU employed in companies in the Chicago area and in Louisville, Kentucky. Plans are currently underway to implement the program for ACTWU members in Cleveland and Cincinnati, Ohio as well. Stakeholders in the Worker Education Program include the union members, the partner companies, the union, and the university.

Like most adult education programs in the U.S., this program is made possible under the auspices of the Adult Education Act. When the Act was first authorized in 1966, its stated purpose was "to encourage and expand basic educational programs for adults to enable them to overcome English language limitations, and to improve their basic education in preparation for occupational training and more profitable employment" (Rose, 1994). After 25 years, this mandate is stronger than ever. As we approach the threshold of the 21st century, education will be the key to societal and economic development in the global marketplace.

In the Worker Education Program all stakeholders have garnered positive outcomes. As the result of the program, workers have increased levels of self-esteem, higher productivity, and more opportunities for advancement. Businesses have gained a competitive edge through better communication with their work force, increased on-line production, and decreased turnaround time. Through the program, the Union has gained more active members and provided better working conditions for their rank and file members. Through workers' acquisition of work and personal skills,

they are taking a more active role on-the-job. Management of the companies have told program staff that since the program's inception they have promoted many more workers from within company ranks. Also, workers are more involved in union activities such as contract negotiations and union organizing drives. The university gains as it has engendered an innovative, interactive learner-centered methodology to members of the community.

In my post as program director of the Worker Education Program, I have seen many promising practices in the program. Chief among them are the program's philosophy and learner-centered methodology. The program's philosophy is to facilitate global skills for the workplace and for life. For example, when one learns to read the dial on a machine, one transfers these skills to take a thermometer reading or weigh fruit in a grocery store. In a learner-centered methodology, workers' life and work experiences form the nucleus of class activities. Teachers do not act as problem solvers; rather, they are problem posers. In addition, the program is in the process of implementing an advisory board in which all stakeholders play an active role. In the context of the advisory board structure, workers, union and company representatives, and program staff jointly plan classes which are customized to meet workers' educational needs.

My greatest satisfaction, however, is experiencing first hand how the program has positively impacted the lives of the participating workers. I hope the language experience stories included in this anthology, ***Working Hands and Active Minds***, illuminate the ways in which the program has positively impacted the lives of the participants in the Worker Education Program classes.

Margaret Bayles-Escalona

A Word about the Sponsors

Northeastern Illinois University
College of Education
Chicago Teachers' Center

The Chicago Teachers Center is part of a public urban university which serves an economically and ethnically diverse population. With one of the largest colleges of education in the greater Chicago metropolitan area, Northeastern Illinois University offers a comprehensive range of programs at the undergraduate and graduate level as well as extensive educational outreach services.

Dating back nearly 130 years, the College of Education has a long history of dedication to excellence and innovation in education. This dedication has given rise to a mission of building communities of lifelong learners through collaboration. The mission encompasses three goals – training outstanding teachers, developing innovative research, and delivering extended service to schools, communities, business, industry, and professional groups.

As an integral part of its commitment to these goals, the College of Education established the Chicago Teachers' Center in 1978. The staff at the Center works closely with elementary and secondary teachers as well as students and faculty from the College of Education to address the needs of urban teachers, students, and parents, while implementing the latest in educational theory and practice. The Center also collaborates with several community and business organizations such as ACTWU, to extend the learning process beyond the confines of the traditional classroom environment.

Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACTWU) was founded in 1914 in Chicago, Illinois. At that time, the membership consisted primarily of immigrant, male, skilled tailors from Eastern Europe. From its beginning, the union helped its membership learn English and helped immigrant families settle into the American workplace and communities. Over the years, the membership became more female and mirrored the waves of immigration into the United States, but education for union members remained a priority with ACTWU. For the past twenty years, the union has had a growing membership of immigrants from Latin America and Asia.

Today, the Chicago and Central States Joint Board of ACTWU represents American and immigrant workers in a variety of industries. The increase in global competition along with rapid technological changes have created a climate in which the union and its business partners have begun to increase educational efforts. The ultimate goal is to keep jobs in this country and to prepare American workers to work competitively with workers from all parts of the world.

Introduction

An essential component of the Worker Education Program model is a holistic approach to teaching English Language skills in classes attended by workers. This technique, often called the Language Experience Approach, draws upon the actual language of the participants, and enables workers' voices to be heard through the telling of their personal stories. In addition to storytelling, workers see their own words become the source of valuable print materials, the nucleus of a wide range of educational activities. In this way, the classes become more meaningful and help participants build their self-confidence. Prior to writing, students typically engage in discussions of their work experiences, home lives, and other matters of personal interest. Throughout this process, either individually or in groups, students are encouraged to freely express their thoughts and ideas. By reading their own words, language comes to life in ways that may not otherwise be possible. These self-generated stories not only assure a greater degree of language acquisition and comprehension on the part of workers, but they also enable workers to gain a sense of accomplishment. The same writings are used in classes to help workers acquire vocabulary, develop communication skills, and reflect on topics and issues relevant to the job and the workplace.

The writings in this anthology are drawn from Worker Education Program classes which were offered in the 1994-1995 program cycle. As these classes progressed, program staff became increasingly impressed with the volume, quality, and scope of the workers' writings, which focus on a range of topics from the workplace to their personal lives. The writings evoke many of the deeply felt experiences of participants in many aspects of their lives, both before they came to the United States and as immigrants in a new country. These narratives poignantly reveal and illuminate, in concrete and poetic language, the rich and detailed stories the writers have to tell. Such stories are often not heard, much less published. This anthology, then, provides a forum for the voices of the workers.

The Worker Education Program has added this anthology to its collection of teaching tools, and the program encourages other programs to use this anthology in this way as well. Additional copies or information about the Worker Education Program can be obtained by contacting Margaret Boyter-Escalona at Northeastern Illinois University (312) 755-7350, ext. 440.

STUDENT WORK

Working for a Living

Life Outside the Workplace

Worker Education Program

Work and Labor: Past and Future

The Immigrant Experience

What is it like to work in a factory? These stories, told from the perspective of those who work on an assembly line or at a machine, vividly portray what workers think about their jobs, how they perform them, and what thoughts workers have during the work day. These narratives capture how workers use their hands and their minds in the workplace.

I work in the American Guard It. I work on the sewing machine, I make the front of the bag in the merrow machine. I have some friends. I work here 5 years. I do some things in the different machines. I work in the shipping department when I have no work on the sewing machine.

Martha Cruz, American Guard-It

I work at American Guard-it. I sew. Sometimes I put toppers, or linings. I can sew anything. I have 10 years in Chicago and all time I did work in sew machine. I can close, make fanny pack, put webbing, make stitch, etc.

Maricela Lopez, American Guard-It

I work in a sewing factory. For do my work I use a sewing machine of 4 needles and 2 bindings and 1 zipper. I do preparation in this machine. I have to do fronts, back pockets, and plastics of some bags. Normally this is my work. Sometimes I use another machine of the 2 needles, with zipper and also I use the single needle machines or doing anything else: sliders or cutting or stitch, etc.

Maria Hernandez, American Guard-It

I work in American Guard it Company, I m a sewing machine operator. I close the garment bags, I put the gasket and webbing in the top.

Graciela Santillano, American Guard-It

I start work 7/22/94. First time she give me do yoking. It is very hard with me. So, I do about 2 months and she change another job for me. Now, I sewing collar set. That s easy for me. My family had 8 people. I live with my parent. I had 2 brothers, 5 sisters and me. My family come U.S. May 27, 1989. I go to school 9/01/89. I study in Iroquis high school 5 years. I finish high school May 10, 1992.

Dalinh Bui, Enro

I work for Enro shirt company. I ve been here about one year and 8 months. I am in third section. I work first shift every day from 7 am to 5:30 pm. I fix collar and shirt together. My job is easy but I have to work carefully. Every day I sew about 36 dozen. My machine is very old, it often doesn t work. I m not pleasure about it. I d like to have a new machine. I hope that if I have a new machine, I will work better.

Dam Ho, Enro

My name s Quang. I m 22 years old. My native is Vietnamese. I left my country in May 20th as a refugee. I ve been working in Enro sewing company in August 2. I ve found a good job here. Everything in my job is not difficult because I was a tailor in Vietnam. One thing I can say about my job that s very interesting. I think I have a good job now.

Quang Dang Le, Enro

I have been here for one year and nine months.
I work at Section 2.
My job is joining.
Mai Nguyen, Enro

I am work Enro shirt company.
I am a band creaser.
My job is piece work.
I am a operator band creaser.
Sean Nong, Enro

I work in Enro shirt factory. I have been working in Enro for four years and six months. My first job I work as a folder. I work there for seven month. After that, I transfer to yoke department as a sewing and I had been sewing yolks since 1990 until now. I now receive a lot of overtime, however, I do not work at all except when I can find a babysitter. I know sewing yolk is not easy but someone has to do it and I like it very much.

Maria Thomas, Enro

I work in Enro company more 5 years. I sew the collar set. I like my job very much because that is my career from Vietnam.
Diep Ngoc Nguyen, Enro

I m sewing everyday feeling it s a good job. I like my job I m working long time. I m working Enro Factory. Sewing is good. Thanks.
Chun Ye Dilley, Enro

Hi my friends.
I work in Juno Lighting Dept. #500 in labels room.
8 years ago I worked in Dept. #100 at the line. I miss my colleagues when I work because everybody talk, and crack many jokes. Everybody have a lot of fun and do a lot of work too.
Engracia Mejia, Juno

I work in Department 800. My work is special assembly. I put connections on any one switch. I get special orders from Department 100. My job is good because it changes all the time.
Juan H. Gonzalez, Juno

My story is

I have too many friends, sometimes. Because sometimes they are very angry. I work on the machine. It's too hard because I m tired all day.

I help all my friends because when they finish they help me too. I like my work because is very easy.

I like work together with all my friends but sometimes I m so tired but I have to work because is my job.

Fidelina Alvarez. Juno

My Story

I work in Dept. 200. We work too fast and hard in my line. Sometimes my friends tell jokes and we have a good time, but some days the people are quiet. I'm bored and I want to sleep. When I work in the machine I can't talk because is very dangerous. I need to pay attention. When I go to the washroom I tell my group leader and he replaces my place.

Elizabeth Martinez. Juno

I write about my job today. In this morning my coworkers and I, we made the lamp model AL926. Four hours in the morning I put the can into the aluminum box and I pull the wires into the cable. Then, four hours later I put the diaphragm gromet through the wires and I insert the gromet in the can hole. I finished my job with pain in my fingers.

We finished maybe 1,250 lamps today. That job was in department 200 on the line number 16.

Aurelio Machuca. Juno

Department 600

I work in department 600. I attach the springs to the baffle on either side of the baffle. In one minute, I finish 6. I do this for 4 hours. Then I stamp the rim with the number of the finished piece and put it over the baffle. I cover this with a cardboard cover. I stamp the date on the box and put a dozen such boxes in a carton, stamp the date, staple the carton and put the carton on the skid. I repeat this, starting with the rim, and fill the skid with cartons.

Silvia Hernandez. Juno

I am working in Juno Lighting. I am assembling lamps. My department is two hundred. I like this job. I have too much friend. I get along with all people and my best friend is the teacher Shobha.

Anibal Roman. Juno

My Story

I work at Juno Lighting, Inc. I'm an assembler. I have worked here for 6 months. I assemble lamps. In my job I make different things. I can put label in the can. I can't pack it. Sometimes I use a rivet machine.

I work all week from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 pm and Tuesdays and Thursday I take English classes from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Maria Vega. Juno

Working for a Living

I work in the company Juno Lighting, Inc. I m an assembler. I make the lamps. I puts the label on the housing. An assembler puts on connector on the cable. I operate the rivet machine. I work for five days in the week. I put the bracket on the hand bar. I have work in the company four years. I live in Chicago IL for sixteen years. I work in Des Plaines.

Elvia Hernandez, Juno

I work in Juno in Des Plaines. My work is assemble lamp and connector. I put the label on the box. I work 6:00 am to 5:30 pm. I take my break 9:15 to 11:50 and at 1:35. Tuesday and Thursday I take English classes 1 1/2 hours.

Maria C. Sanchez, Juno

I work at Juno Lighting Inc. I m assembler. Sometimes I rivet with machine or I assemble hanger bar, or sometimes I go to work at the line. I put socket in the housing or I put hanger bars on frame. I put the spring on the J. box. I put the socket on the plate. I put J. box in the housing.

Maria Ramirez, Juno

I work in Juno. I live in Chicago. Everyday I go to my work. I work for 40 hour in the week. I work in assembly. I put the bracket. I rivet the machine. I put in label. I take lunch at 11:15. I punch my card 6:45 in, out 5:30.

Guillermina Vargas, Juno

I work in department six hundred.
I use the tools
I use hammer to hit clips on the baffle.
I use gloves to protect my hands.
I use screw driver to tighten trim
and stripper to cut.

Silvia Hernandez, Juno

I m going to talk about my job. I work in Department 100. I make connectors and transformers. I like my job because it is very easy, but sometimes I m sleeping because its too boring. Also, I work together with all my friends, but sometimes they are angry with me because I work in the rivet machine and I put too many connectors above the line.

Fidelina Alvarez, Juno

In my work the most difficult thing is when I work with air driver or when I work with riveting machine because it is hard for my hand and the line it comes fast and I need to work fast. In my work I must wear glasses.

Elizabeth Martinez, Juno

I work in Department 200. I work with the machine. I use pliers to tighten the screws. I work in the assembly. I use hammer to position the bracket. I work in the line. I use Phillips screwdriver to tighten screw in socket.

Maria Huertero, 01/03/95, Juno

I believe that my job is fun and I like it because I drive a fork lift and I love to drive. I work in Juno Lighting in the receiving department. My job is to collect material to be painted from the different companies.

One more reason I like my job is because I never get many problems. Sometimes my job gets so busy, but after few hours and with somebody with me, everything is so easy.

I have been working in Juno for almost 8 years and I like it. But sometimes I feel like I want something different.

Another reason my job is fun and I like it is because we have good relationship with the co-workers even though sometimes we have small problems.

Gerardo Ayala, Juno

July 18, 1994

I wake up at 6:00 in the Morning. My breakfast, I eat bread and coffee. I don't eat breakfast with my husband because I go to work at 7:00 and he goes to work at 8:00 in the morning. I can't spend time with my son because in the morning he is sleeping. My husband brings me to Libra and sometimes I get to Libra at 15 to 7:00 or 10 to 7:00 in the morning.

When I get to Libra I say to everybody, "Hello. Good morning. How are you?" My partner is Josefina, she talks to me every day. My job is to sort the gloves, sometimes iron the leather gloves.

I eat my lunch at 10:05 am with my friends Patty, Elizabeth, and Angelica. I finish work at 3:30 p.m. then I study English.

I get home at 5:00 or sometimes 4:00 in the afternoon. Then I eat dinner with my husband and my baby. We watch the TV. We go to sleep at 10:00 at night.

Claudia Torres, Libra

I wake up at five o'clock, cook breakfast, and eat breakfast with my husband. I don't have children. I get to my work at six o'clock. I work at Libra Industries. I get to Libra on the train and bus.

When I get to Libra, I say, "hello everybody." I stand next to Elizabeth. My job is sorter--I eat lunch at 12 o'clock. I take my lunch together with Martha. My work is finished at 3:30. I go to study English after work Monday and Wednesday.

I go back to my house on the bus and train. Then I cook my dinner and eat with my family. When I finish eating, I watch television. Then I go to sleep at 10:30.

Aurora Sandoval, Libra

I wake up at 5:45 in the morning. I go to work. I take first train, then take the bus. I punch in at 6:55 in the morning. In the factory I say, "Hello everybody."

I work with Augustina but sometimes the boss changes the ladies at the table. We sort the gloves. I separate gloves, scrap and repair them. I take lunch at 12:00 in the afternoon. I sit down to eat lunch with my friends. I finish work at 3:30. Then I attend English class.

I go home. I eat dinner with my husband, and my daughter and my sister. Then I watch TV. After dinner I clean my house. Sometimes I go do laundry. I go to bed at 10:30 or 11:00.

Patricia Palafox, Libra

I wake up at 4:00 in the morning. I go to work at 7:00 in the morning. I eat lunch at 12:00 in the afternoon. I finish work at 3:30. I study English at 3:30. I get home at 5:20. I eat dinner at 7:00. I go to sleep at 11:15.

Josefina Fabian, Libra

I wake up at 5:30. I go to work at 7:00. I eat lunch at 10:00. I study English at 3:30. I get home at 5:00. I eat dinner at 7:00. I go to sleep at 11:00.

Carmen Lopez, Libra

October 1994

I work by Owen Corning fiberglass. My address is 5824 S. Archer Rd. I work for 5 1/2 years in 3rd shift. I start 11:00 PM. to 7 A.M. six days a week. My position at Owens Corning is "wrapping machine". I try to do all packages good, dry, and color, names, date, label, everything is perfect work. I work together with my friends. Their names Manuel Melendez and Manuel Garcia.

Carlos Rivera, Owens Corning

My job is sometimes hard, other times is easy. But is good job. I work some times in finish looper, and some times in the front. Sometimes sweep the factory. I do different jobs.

Gerardo de Anda, Owens Corning

I work for Owens Corning. My position of job is relief man. I start breaktime at 11 pm and my tender second and the slate mixer thirt coater section.

Juvenal Villa, Owens Corning

I am a QA Tech. My main responsibility is to unload a small datamyte into a computer. The datamyte is where all the information is stored from each QA on each shift and the machines that were running.

From the computer I get a report out for a 9:00 am meeting daily. In between the reports sometimes I get a phone call from the warehouse about incoming materials like paper or color. I have to verify if it's the correct materials. If so, I release it by my stamp which has my QA#.

I also check in resin from a truck. I do certificates for certain customers. And I do green area meetings for three shifts. And I do some filing.

Aurora Chavez, Phoenix Closures

I work at Phoenix Closures. I am a floor person. I put caps in the hopper. First I check in the warehouse for the order for caps. I look for the paper for the machine. I compare the number of the machine with the number on the paper. I stack the boxes on the palette. I drive the forklift to move the skid. I load the truck with the boxes.

Leonso Salazar, Phoenix Closures

I am a utility person. I fix some problems that we have with the product that we make such as shorts, flash, dirty.

But first of all the operator has to tell me so I can fix it. Sometimes we have to start up the machines after maintenance fixes any of their problems.

We also have to help the operators on their breaks, and pick up all the garbage off of my machines, and dump it in the dumpster.

We have to do our own color changes also, and keep my ten machines running for most of the day.

Jose Montano, Phoenix Closures

I am in Q.A. I check products and measure caps. I fill out different forms. I twist caps on bottles to make sure they fit correctly. I approve color changes to make sure they are correct.

Zugheily Colon, Phoenix Closures

I am a machine operator. At first when I get on my machine, I take the order for the production. Then I have to check if the order agrees with the load tickets and the labels. So I go around and check if I have the correct caps and paper. Then if those will have glue, I have to check if the glue tank is full and check the temperature on it. Next I start the machine, take the samples, and keep going all night.

Manuela Ramirez, Phoenix Closures

My job takes a lot of thinking and a lot of walking.

I have to check that the machines are running in good condition. For example, if an operator tells me that the machine is running short, I have to go to the machine and try to fix it.

But before I do anything to the machines I think first before I move any buttons.

Ray Ramos, Phoenix Closures

At the start of my day, I check material, color, and regrind hoppers. Next, I check the grinders. Then I check how many load tickets are left on the order. Finally, I check how many cavities are being made and I mark it down on the operator's work report.

Tad Gloucka, Phoenix Closures

Quality Assurance

There are two different kinds of Quality Assurance (Q.A.) positions at Phoenix Closures. There are Q.A. technicians and Q.A. inspectors.

Q.A. technicians give quality meetings to all Q.A. inspectors to let them know what is happening in the plant and with our customer complaints. We also down load information from datamytes (information QA inspectors input out on the floor) into the computer to get our reports. The reports are done for management personnel. Q.A. technicians also check incoming material such as color, lining paper, glue, and resin. We sometimes do audits on customer returns or production that we want to prevent from being returned. We verify information on production being sent out such as what resin, color, paper, or glue we used. Q.A. Tech is a wonderful position.

Rosalinda Juarez, Phoenix Closures

Utility Person

When the shift begins we check the manufacturers orders to see if any changes are coming up like color change, order change or mold change.

Also, we check the cavities and frame numbers of the molds, after that we do trouble shooting to fix any defects of the caps. We have to clean the machines and around them, also we fill up the color hoppers and sometimes the material hoppers too. We regrind the rejects. Before we leave at the end of the shift we write a note about what is going on with the machines.

Yolanda Cabral and Vicente Sanchez, Phoenix Closures

I m a Lining Maintenance person who works only in the Lining Department. My job is to maintain the machines in good condition. I also do change overs, that is, to change the tooling size in the machines that is going to run. When a machine goes down, the operator turns on a red light for me to fix what the problem is, or how big or small the problem is. I usually work with glue, solvent, air, paper, and cut edges.

Jose Rocha, Phoenix Closures

Machine Maintenance

I m a machine maintenance person, my job is to work on injection machine repairs, like electrical, hydraulic and mechanical problems. Sometimes I do plumbing and welding jobs. I also work on equipment, like conveyors, spinner bowls, grinders, logic seals and thermometers. Then I have to work on material system problems. For example, when the machine doesn t get material, the utility calls maintenance to fix it.

Gerardo Contreras, Phoenix Closures

Empece a trabajar en 1982 el dia 18 de Febrero y trabajando dos anos in molding y trabaje cuatro anos de inspectora de hose reel y trabaje cuatro anos de QC y me gusta mucho mi trabajo y estoy contento porque me gusta.

I began working at Suncast on February 18, 1982. I worked in molding for 2 years. I was a hose reel inspector for 4 years. I have been working in Q.C. for 4 years now, and I like my work a lot. I am happy.

Maria Garcia, Suncast

About My Job at Suncast

I think my job in Suncast is very important because in my department (PIC) we need to know everything about the molding production. Molding has maybe 45 machines. Sometimes my job is hard because we are only 3 guys.

When the operator packages the production we need to put on the labels. After the Q.C. stamps we need to make the quantity, writing the information on some sheets and putting the information in the computer.

I like my work. Because it's very busy all days.

In this company I find many friends every year.

Ricardo Caballero, Suncast

I work at Suncast. My work is machine operator. I work 5 day per week.

Monday to Friday. I go two days a week to my English class.

My teacher is Susan.

Maria Beltran, Suncast

I have worked at Suncast since March 1990. I like my work, but, I want to take a vacation in July. I want to relax.

Reynaldo Carranza, Suncast

Me and My Work

I work at Suncast Corporation, on the first shift. This shift begins at 7:00 through 3:30. I have worked at this company for 5 years. For 2 years I worked in Hose Reel; I worked as an inspector after changing to the Q.C. Department. I have worked in this department for 1 year. I work in Sales Samples. In this department we receive customer's orders. Sometimes the order is Q.C. That is very easy. When it is visual it needs to be perfect but when it is perfect it needs to look great and be more perfect. We need to look for the best parts for this order. I like this job. Sometimes I have lots of work and I need to work overtime, but I like it.

Magda Garcia, Suncast

I work on the line.

I pack the parts.

I change the line.

It is lunch time 12:15.

Jose please give me permission to go to the bathroom.

Celia Campos, Suncast

Working for a Living

I work at Suncast. My department is Material Control. Five people work in my department. My job is sometimes very fast. I use the computer and scale, walk stackie and stretch wrap too. I put empty gaylords in the machines. I like my job. My supervisor is very nice.

Agapito Constantino, Suncast

Four weeks ago I was working in the Extrusion department as a trainer right now. I have worked since November 1991. Actually, I'm a Material Controller in the Molding Department. This job is very interesting because I have been learning a lot of things. For example, I like how the material flows in this department. I also like using a computer. I like it! Something very important is that I have been meeting a lot of people and my partners are very nice. I'm happy with this change. I think that this is a good experience for me. In a future, I would like to get another promotion where I can use my skills.

Javier Perez, Suncast

I work at Suncast.
In the molding department.
I'm a trainer and a relief operator.
I train new people.
I explain how to do their jobs easily.
I enjoy my job when I help other people, to learn their job.

Martha Ochoa, Suncast

I work at Suncast Corporation. My job is inspector of the line. Sometimes I have a problem with the product because sometimes there are missing parts or short shots. But sometimes it is difficult because the line is very fast.

Teresa Alday, Suncast

2-27-95
I like English class.
I study English at work.
I have been working at Suncast for 2 years.
I work 2nd shift.
My supervisor is Pat.
My Department is molding.

I am a machine operator.

I don t like my job when it is summer time because it is too hot.

Baltazar Lopez, Suncast

I like my work because we do different jobs. I have been working at this company. I m a machine operator. My supervisor s name is Pat Carrie. He has been working with us for 1 year. I have been working in other factories. The people are very nice. I come to English classes. They are very important because we learn a lot.

Isidro Bermudez, Suncast

I work at Suncast. I work in the hose reel department. I train the people on the line. My supervisor is Randy G. I work 6 days I like English class because English is important.

I have lived in Aurora for 6 years.

I like living in Aurora.

I work at home. I m mechanical. I fix people s cars.

Luis Cepeda, Suncast

I study English now. I can communicate better with my supervisor.

I have been working at Suncast for 8 years.

My supervisor is Esther Javier.

My Department is 4531.

Cirila Diego, Suncast

I work in Suncast four years.

I work in Molding department all the time.

Adan Rocha, Suncast

I work at Suncast. I like my work I work in molding. My supervisor is Barry Doss. I like my English class. I have worked at Suncast for 10 years.

Maria Lopez, Suncast

Mi trabajo es el mantener en orden el material para poder llevar acabo el empacar las partes en las cuales podriamos ofrecer un buen trabajo al venir a esta compania no solo el estar trabajando sino el poder brindarnos el estudio para poder salir adelante en cualquier situacion.

My job is to keep the materials in order so that the parts can be packed. This is a good job not only because of the work but because we can take advantage of studying to get ahead in whatever situation.

Sanjuana Hernandez, Suncast

I put handles in boxes. I like this work.

Monica Melera, Suncast

Working for a Living

Acerca de mi trabajo. Tengo ya 5 años trabajando en Suncast y he aprendido a trabajar en diferentes trabajos y me gusta aprender cada dia trabajos diferentes me gusta trabajar en las maquinas y saber cada dia mas. Me gusta mi trabajo. Y ahora estoy tratando de aprender Ingles para saber hablar con cualquiera persona y me gusta como me enseñan Susan y Sallie.

About my work. I have been working at Suncast for 5 years and I have learned to work on different jobs and I like to learn different jobs every day. I like to work on the machines and learn more each day. I like my work and now I m trying to learn English to know how to talk to everybody and I like how Sallie and Susan teach me.

Mirna Perez. Suncast

February 28, 1995

Me gusta mi trabajo porque chequeo las cajas que regresan de la tienda. Y asi se la razon por que fue regresada. Me gusta mucho las clases de Ingles porque asi puedo aprender. Y me siento contenta. Muchas gracias maestra por enseñarnos.

I like my work because I check the boxes that come back from the stores. I like English class very much because I can learn and I feel happy. Thank you teachers very much.

Oralia Duran, Suncast

I work in the molding department. I m a machine operator. My supervisor is Barry Doss. I study English.

Maria Villegas, Suncast

I work maintaining the machines. I supply materials and keep them clean on 3rd shift. I like my work.

Luis Sanchez, Suncast

I work at Suncast. I have been working at this company for 5 years and I like the work. My work is as a machine operator. I assemble chairs, lockers, and tables.

Concepcion Mendez, Suncast

February 28, 1995

I work at Suncast.

Excuse me, Barry Doss.

The machine is stuck.

I am a machine operator. Yo soy operador de machine.

My supervisor is Barry Doss.

I worked at Suncast 5 years.

Florencia Aguirre, Suncast

February 28, 1995

I like my work at Suncast.

I work in molding.

I like relief work.

My supervisor is Barry Doss.

Yo tengo trabajando cinco años en Suncast. I have been working at Suncast for 5 years.

Elias Rodriguez, Suncast

My work is a relief operator.

I train the new people.

I like my English class.

Maria Beltran , Suncast

Hi! I m Martin Perez I started working at this company two years. I know everything about the department of extrusion. Now I m only an instructions operator but I want to be a trainer. Maybe the next year I will be because when the trainer is missing I do his work.

Martin Perez, Suncast

I work in hose reel.

I work on the line.

Packing the part boxes.

Maria Ochoa, Suncast

I work at Suncast. My job is very easy in my English class I learned to speak English not very well but I understand and it is very interesting for me, because I can speak with American people.

Teresa Alday, Suncast

Yo trabajo en la linia poniendo partes en la caja tambien trabajo en le desarmar.

Tambien pego labels en la caja.

I work on the line putting parts in the box. I also work in assembly. I also put labels on the boxes.

Juana Ferrera, Suncast

6-15-94

I like to work at Suncast because I like the people. I like living in Aurora because it is pretty and it has many stores. Also because it has many clean streets.

Alicia Garcia, Suncast

6-15-94

Tengo 9 años trabajando para Suncast y me siento muy agusto. Me gusta mi trabajo, me siento agusto con mis compañeras.

I have been working at Suncast for 9 years and I feel very pleased I like my work and I feel very pleased with my friends at work.

Maria Lopez, Suncast

10-4-94

I work at Suncast Corporation. I have 5 years experience. I work packing and assembling parts. My salary is $6.00 dollars per hour.

The factory is very big and a lot of people work there. My benefits are insurance, vacations, and holidays.

Norma Contreras, Suncast

10-4-94

Here is a Suncast worker named Jose. He works in molding departments in the grainers area. He has worked here five years. He comes to work the 5:00 AM. every day. He goes to the cafeteria and drinks a cup of coffee to 6:15 go to punch in. He take his safety equipment and he ready for work. Monday and Wednesday he came to learn because he goes to English classes. He studies from 6:10 AM. to 7:40 AM two day a week.

Jose Ortiz, Suncast

5-10-95

I work at Oxxford Clothes Inc. That is located at 1220 W. Van Buren Chicago IL. The company makes men's suits that are made by hand. The suits are very expensive. This is my first job in the United States. I work on the sixth floor. My position is trimmer. I trim the lining of sleeves. Sometimes I take the measurement of the sleeves also.

Kam Sheung Yu, Oxxford Clothing

5-10-95

I am a seamstress. I work at Hart Schaffer & Marx for 18 years. The company makes men's suits. One year ago the company moved to Des Plaines. Before the company was located at Jackson Blvd. near downtown. Now the company is far away from my house. It takes more time on the way everyday.

Yeung Ming Mark, Hart Schaffner & Marx

I work at the Oxxford Clothing Co. before the name of the company was Oxxford Clothing Co. The name of the new president is Mr. Rawling. He owns this company just a month ago. I m a seamstress, joining the front and the back of jackets together. It is the one part of the suit I make. Sometimes if I finish my job, then I will help someone to make the belts, the over clothes and the vest lining. But in the last couple years business has been going down. Everything is changing at my job.

Anita Ho Yan, Oxxford Clothing

There's a problem. The handles are too hot. The machine is going too fast. The pins are crooked. The quality inspector says, "The handles are no good."

drawn by:
Elias Rodriquez
Luis Sanchez
Sanjuana Hernandez

A worker's life encompasses so much more than what happens in the workplace. As these stories show, workers are involved in many activities focusing on their families, their culture, and their personal interests. The writings show what it means to prepare a meal or celebrate a holiday in their home countries. They show how the workers love for their families enriches their lives.

Tuesday 1-17-95

I had Christmas vacation 10 days. I went to the shopping buy for my husband new jacket, for my son and my daughter any something they like I prepare Christmas tree at the window. My son and my daughter they have too much presents from friend. They put under Christmas tree. Morning December 2nd I cook food and make bake for dinner tonight. After dinner my children open presents, they very happy and enjoy dinner. December 25, I and my husband went to Lexington, we have party at there. We are come back home at 2:00 AM.

Be Kim Nhan, Euro

Tuesday January 17th 1995

I had a nice Christmas vacation. The first, my family celebrate birthday for my niece at Christmas night. We took pictures with camera. We cooked Vietnamese foods, birthday cake. After that day we went to Chicago and visited my sister in Wisconsin state. Chicago is a nice city, we went to the shop. I did not remember the shop's name, but that one was really big almost 8 level. Then we visited Sear Tower, so nice. We could see all city when we stood on the higher level. It has 103 levels. We saw all of the lights and free-way very small. It is beautiful. Later, my sister and her husband took us around Milwaukee City-about downtown, Michigan Lake. The weather is too cold, too much wind but we thought we had a nice day and nice vacation also.

Van Ngo, Euro

I went for my vacation in June 1995 to Mexico Morelia Michoacan by airplane. My family was happy when they saw me. I danceed a lot.

I went to different parts of Mexico. I ate a lot of different fruits. I was in Mexico for twenty-one days. The weather was very nice.

Beda Vargas, Juno

MY LOVING GRANDMOTHER

My grandmother's name is Teranceito Iatenchi. She was born in 1900. She was very loving. She was skinny and short like me. She was friendly and affectionate. She had 3 children, one boy and 2 girls. She didn't go to school. She was in the revolution in 1910. She narrated history about her life in this revolution. My grandmother was very pretty. She married very young with an old man. She liked to dance and arrange the parties.

Cirila Mendez, Juno

My Grandmother

She lives in Guatemala. My grandmother's name is Virginia Castellon. She sometimes is sick. She says, "I want to go to Chicago before I die." My grandmother does not like any ride and always she likes to walk long distances. She say it is good for exercise. She loves me very much.

Gloria Arreola, Juno

Beliefs about Comets

Once I saw a comet a long time ago. Somebody talk to me about the comet. And told me that the comet bring sickness. Also comets could bring a year of calamity and that's what happened.

Cecilio Ortiz, Juno

My grandmother orig name's Dien. She was born in China. She have four children. She want take care children at home. And she was cooking. She is tall & she's strong & she's nice to people.

Le Le Dhai, Juno

I live in Chicago. I am married. I have 3 children. I work in Juno Lighting.

David Hernandez, Juno

I have wife and 5 children. My first child is Nancy, 2nd son is Victor, third child is Verenice, fourth is Enrique, fifth is Lino Jr.

I work in Juno Lighting over 10 years and work for department of R.G.A. Also I love my job because here I have a lot a friends and my best friend is my teacher.

Lino Cervantes, Juno

I work at Juno Lighting, Inc. I operate the machine. I work a week. Before work, I eat breakfast. After work I go to the gas station.

At my home my dinner for my family. We watch T.V. Before sleep, I write my homework. I take a shower. Next day I'm already for work.

Maria Isabel Roldan, Juno

I use the knife in my kitchen for cutting beef or tomatoes.
I use the broom to clean my kitchen.
I use ladder to put up the patches.
I use the hammer in my home for hit nails.
I use scissors for cut the paper or plastic bag.

Maria Sanchez, Juno

This is a knife. I use in my kitchen. I cut the beef.
This is a broom. I use in my house.
This is a hammer. I use in my work.
This is a scissors. I use in my house. I cut the paper.

Sylvia Hernandez, Juno

In the morning I have to wake up at 5:15. Then I take shower. I get dressed then I have to make the breakfast. Then I like to drink 2 coffee and bread. Then I have to leave to my work. Then I have to punch the card at 7:50 in the morning. Then I have to sew on the merrow machine. Then I have to work on the double needle machine. Then I like to go home at 4:30 then I have to cook dinner. I do chicken and mashed

potatoes. Then we like to eat at 6:00. Then, I have to do my homework. Then I like to go sleep at 10:00.

Ana Maria Gutierrez, Party Shoes/Leo's Dancewear

I have to sweep my kitchen floor. In the morning I get up at 3:45 to prepare the lunch for my husband and he leaves home at 4:00 o'clock. I go back to bed and then I get up at 5:45. I have to take my dog for a walk every morning. I have to take my shower. I dress, prepare my lunch , I drink a cup of tea and I have to check if everything is okay, light off, doors closed. I leave home at 7:20 because I have to pick up to Rufina. I have to pay the bills every month, light, gas, phone, mortgage, loan account and car insurance. I have to feed my bird before and after work I have to check the mail when I come home from work. I have to warm up my car before go to work.

Severiana Benitez, Party Shoes/Leo's Dancewear

In the morning I have to wake up at 5:30. I take showers, I get dressed, then I have to feed my pelicans and clean their cage. The bird's names are Lorenso and Estrella and Sol. Then I make the coffee, prepare my lunch, then I go to work punching my card in the morning at 8:00.

Verónica Gutierrez, Party Shoes/Leo's Dancewear

In the morning I wake up at 6:00, take a shower, then make coffee and prepare my lunch. Then I wake up my children at 7:20. I get my coat and go to work. When I get to work, I punch in at 7:55. I work on a single machine sew blouses then elastic -many things.

Things I like to do is go shopping and then go to the restaurant. I like this job. The people are very good.

Elidia Rivera, Party Shoes/Leo's Dancewear

In the morning I have to wake up at 5:30 - then I take shower. I get dressed. I prepare my lunch. I have to bring my daughter to school at 7:00, then I have to go to work. In the lunch room I drink my coffee. Then at 7:50 I punch in, then I have to start to work at 8:00. I make at my place of work. First put on the power, then put on the machine, then start work.

Jose L. Colin, Party Shoes/Leo's Dancewear

I wake up at 4:45 a.m. I go to work at 7:00 a.m. I eat lunch at 2:00 p.m. I finish work at 3:30 p.m. I study English at 3:30 p.m. I get home at 5:15 p.m. I eat dinner at 6:00 p.m. I go to sleep at 9:00 p.m.

Jose Manzo, Libra

I wake up at 5:00 a.m. I go to work at 7:00 a.m. I eat lunch at 12:00 a.m. I finish work at 3:30 p.m. I study English at 4:00 p.m. I get home at 5:30 p.m. I eat dinner at 7:00 p.m. I go to sleep at 10:00 p.m.

Consuelo Morales, Libra

I wake up at 5:00 in the morning.
I don't eat breakfast with my husband.
I don't spend time with my children.
I take the bus.
I get to Libra at 6:45.
I say hello to everybody.
I stand next to Martha.
My job is sorting.
I take lunch at 12:00.
I sit with my mother-in-law.
I finish at 3:30.
I go to English class at 5:30.
I get home at 3:45.
I never watch TV.
I go to sleep at 9:30.
Ana Flores, Libra

My Mother's Store

Ever since I can remember my mom has had a store. She has a pottery store. The store is located inside the market place in Salamanca Guanajuato Mexico. She sells plates, cups, pots and pans made of clay, she also sells baskets and bird cages. The store is open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. She works long hours every day but I don't think she minds. When I was in Mexico, I was the one who helped her in the store all the time. Now she doesn't have that much help. My sisters are all married and my brothers, well they don't really want to help her.
Maria Velazquez, Phoenix Closures

I live in Aurora. It's a nice city because it's beautiful. I like the summer.

My family is big. I have 6 brothers and I don't have sisters only me. I live with my father and my mother in Aurora. When my family is together we are happy and I have 5 nieces and one nephew are very noisy...
Teresa Salazar, Suncast

I'm Martha Loya. I work 8 or 12 hours a day. In the afternoon I like to walk in the park. I walk with my daughter because in the house it is very hot. In the park it is nice.
Martha Loya, Suncast

I like to work. I like to be sociable at work. At home I like to be with my children.

I like to do things for them that they like. I like to be nice to people.

I like to get together with my co-workers.

Graciela Flores, Suncast

My family is happy.

I have 4 children–two daughters and two sons.

One of my daughters is dark and the other light. One of my sons has dark skin and the other has light skin. Both daughters have long brown hair.

Ismael Espinal, Suncast

I like to work at Suncast because I like the people.

I like living in Aurora because it is pretty and it has many stores. Also because it has many clean streets.

Alicia Garcia, Suncast

Vacation

I like to take my vacation in Cancun and have a good time in the night dining, dancing, walking–around the water, talking to different people. For thirty days vacation are for relaxing on the beach.

Jesus Diego, Suncast

My family lives in Mexico.

My family is happy. My parents are understanding. They like to have festivity.

My mother really likes to cook different foods: enchiladas, mole, and tamales.

They like to dance.

My daughter likes to visit Mexico.

She visits parents, my sisters and my brothers. She feels happy.

Norma Contreras, Suncast

I like to go to Mexico to see my parents.

I like to spend time with my children at Christmas in Mexico with my parents.

Abigay Cano, Suncast

I like the month of December. Why? This month is very nice. The people are different. The whole night everybody is happy then drinking too much cider. We open the presents for everybody.

Miguel Aguado, Suncast

My family is happy. My daughter is intelligent.

Cirila Diego, Suncast

I'm from Mexico
I'm married and have three sons and one daughter.
I live in Aurora, IL.
My parents live in Mexico with my brothers and sister.
I have a lot nephews and all my other family.
The family of my wife live in Aurora.
Three other brothers live in Alaska and another lives in California.

Eduardo Mendez, Suncast

I like to work a lot. During my vacations I'm going to Mexico to see my family with my children and my husband. I am going to go to the country for a day for a picnic.

Consepcion Mendez, Suncast

I'm married. I have a daughter, her name is Dianela. She has five years. We live in Aurora and we have family in Ottawa. I work at Suncast and my wife too.

My job is material coordination. Every year I have holidays and I go to Mexico to visit my parents and friend. First, I go to the church.

Nerid Contreras, Suncast

I'm happy because I have a family that is very united. When we make a decision they are of agreement and always are disposed to talking together.

Elodia Corral, Suncast

I would like to go to Mexico for vacation because I like vacation to Mexico because I see my family. My children like it. My children are happy in Mexico.

Maria Luisa Duran, Suncast

6-15-94

I have four children. Two daughters and two sons. I'm from Mexico. I came to the United States fourteen years ago. I like it because there are many jobs. I like it because my children have a good education. And in the future they will get a good job. Last year I started to study English two days a week. I like it because right now I can write my history in English.

Martha Ochoa, Suncast

6-6-94

I like to walk. I walk in Aurora down the street. I drive to work. To go to the store I drive.

Florensia Aguirre, Suncast

6-15-94

My family is happy. I have 4 children two daughters and two sons. One of my daughters is dark and the other is light. One of my sons has dark skin and the other has light skin. Both daughters have long brown hair.

Ismael Espinal, Suncast

6-7-94

I'm married. I have a daughter her name is Dianela she is five years old we live in Aurora and we have family in Ottawa. I work at Suncast and my wife too. My job is material coordination every year I have vacations and I go to Mexico to visit my parents and friends, but first, I go to the church.

Nevid Contreras, Suncast

6-15-94

I work 8 or 12 hours a day. In the afternoon I like to walk in the park. I walk with my daughter because in the house it is very hot, in the park it is nice.

Martha Loya, Suncast

6-15-94

My family lives in Mexico. My family is happy my parents are understanding. They like to have fiestivity. My mother really likes to cook different food, and enchiladas, mole and tamales. They like to dance. My daughter she likes to visit Mexico. She visits parents, and my sisters and my brothers she feels happy.

Narma Contreras, Suncast

I'm from Mexico, I'm married and have three sons and one daughter. I live in Aurora, my parents live in Mexico with my brothers and sister. I have many nephews and my other family members, the family of my wife lives in Aurora. Three brothers other live in Alaska and other lives in California.

Eduardo Mendez, Suncast

6-9-94

México Tourist Zone

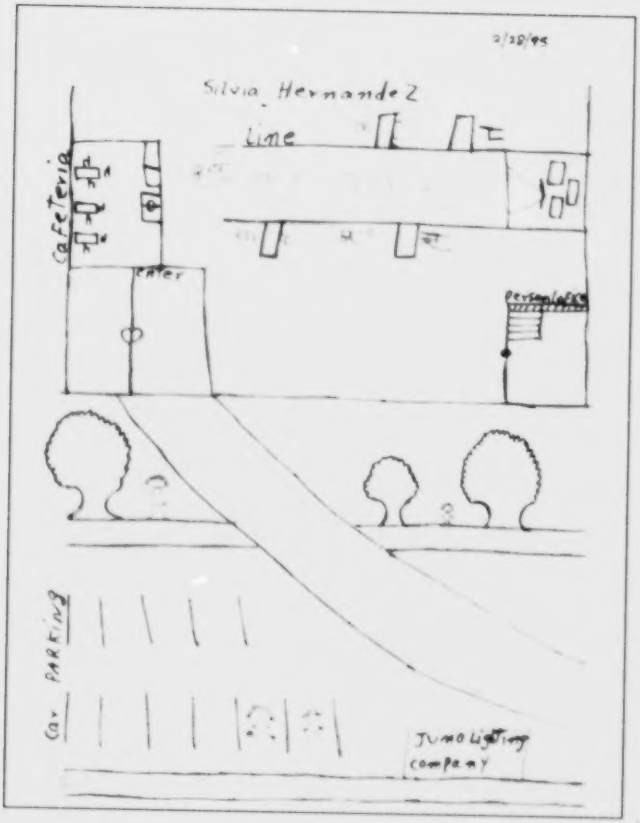
Mexico is a country in North America. It has 32 states and one Federal District, there is a big variety of climates and animals. Between the most important states Chiapas, Veracruz, Tabasco, Oaxaca Michoacan and Guerrero. Something they have is beautiful beaches and a lot of beautiful women.

The people's dream is to know those places, only some get to know those places. When they see all cultures animals, beaches and well know the Mexican people and others. They want to live in Mexico, but for different reasons they can't do it. Especially on the tourist zone because they will get vacation every weekend.

Rodolfo Arvendaño, Suncast

I like to go to Mexico to see my parents. I like to spend time with my children at Christmas in Mexico with my parents.

Abigay Cano, Suncast


2/28/95
Silvia Hernandez
Line
Cafeteria
Personnel
Car PARKING
JUNO Lighting
company

The Worker Education Program 35
An Opportunity to Learn

What a program means to participants is best captured in the words of those who participate in it. These narratives demonstrate how in both small and large ways the classes have had an impact on workers and their families. The stories demonstrate that being able to communicate with their supervisors has made a difference in how workers feel about themselves and their jobs. They demonstrate how the program has generated joy and excitement through challenging learning experiences.

I like very much this English Program because every week I understand. Every class help me more when I try to speak with some people. I m happy and I m trying to learn computers too. I went to take classes on Wednesday computer class.

Raquel Ahmad, ACTWU Class

A mi me gustaria poder participar en esa clase porque es muy bonito saber pero me interesa para estar in la clasa de ingles que para mi es lo mas interesante pero tambien la computadora para personas que estan jovenes que puedan aprovechar esa oportunidad que es bastante buena para todas que quieren aprender esas es mi opinion.

Imelda Alcala, ACTWU Class

I came from China. My English was not good. I could not talk with my boss. Sometime, by boss asked me to do something. I didn t know what he said. I had to study English. In the classes the Teacher teaches me writing English. He talks with me in English. I can learn more. Before I had to use an interpreter for everything. Now I can speak little English. Sometimes my boss asked me to do something. I understand. I like the English classes very much.

Zhoang Xian, ACTWU Class

Me gustaria aprender todo eso para saber. Yo estoy de acuerdo aprender todo eso para no pregantar. Yo estoy de acuerdo aprender.

Rafael Alcala, ACTWU Class

I have gone to the class for a long time. I could not speak much English, when I started the class. Now I speak more and it is easier to talk to my friends. I can watch T.V. in English. I have learned English in class and I can talk about problems. I understand more. I know how to do my job better in the factory because I understand more English, but sometimes it is easy forget. I am old.

Suk Ling Ho Shek, ACTWU Class

I have attended the class for a long time. I like to learn English. It helps me to talk to other people. It also help me to know my friends better. I can learn some new things. On the other hand, I can t go shopping on Saturday. I can t do my laundry and clean the house on Saturday.
There are also no naps too, because I m in class.

Yeung Nung Mark, ACTWU Class

2-25-95

I have attend the class for a long time. I have learned a little English. I get to see and talk to my friends. And, I speak more English to my boss and my co-workers. It s easier for me to read the newspaper. When I watch T.V. in English, I understand a little more. When I go to English class, I can t clear my house. Also no naps on Saturday afternoon. I can t go to the store to buy some groceries, because I am in English class.

Kam Lee, ACTWU Class.

An Opportunity to Learn

I have attended the class for a long time. In the class, I have improved my English. Now when I go shopping, I understand what the sales people say. I can read newspaper, although I can't understand all the meanings on vocabulary. I learn different things that I never knew about. I meet with my friends every Saturday. The class is like a big family. My classmates are very friendly. In the summer I can't always work in my garden because I need to come to class.

Van Ngo, Entr

I like to eat lunch with my friends.
I have learned more English.
I can talk to my friends.
I have learned new words in class.

Heung Man Kwong, ACTWU Class

I have to travel from Skokie.
I understand T.V. better.
I can speak better English.
I understand other people better now.

Yuk Kwong, ACTWU Class

Some people get hired for jobs because they speak English.
Some people get hired for jobs because they have a good education.
Some people get hired for jobs because they have no skills and can't ask for much money.

Yuk Kwong, ACTWU Class

I study English one year. This class helped me in my work. I better understand American people. I better understand TV. I can myself go to shopping. I can better understand my supervisor. I must study English more because language is my life. Thank you very much my teacher Anne.

Liliya Berman, Entr

Hi My name is Magdalena, I'm from Mexico, and I think this English class has helped me very much because I'm learning to communicate more to my friends at work and I'm very happy because they have this program in this company it really helps a lot and is nice that we get to know people from other countries.

Magdalena Carrasco, Entr

I love this English school we learn English and we speaking good and spelling or my teacher is good. I love very much.
She asking for English I chery very her. Asking for of job I chery ever day I was no shopking no English I love thank you.

Chun Ye Dilley, Entr

I like English very much and I wish to know everything about English.

I hope one day I speak English like American people. I am Egypt. I learned English in high school but this was not benefit for me because there was no practicing and there was no English people I can talk to them. In my school I learned English as a grammar but there was no conversation. Now I m learning English as a practicing. I know how to talk and how to pronounce words English and I can talk to American people. In my job I can talk and understand every one. I m understanding every word when my superior explain to me how can I do my job. The English class help me very good. The contest book that we are studying are very interesting and anyone who is teaching to us is excellent. I wish I can learn everything about English.

Nabed El Afifi, Enro

My name is Son Hawkins and I also working at Enro shirt factory. I am also student of the English class. I learned about verb, noun, pronouns, to be verb, and learned past words, present words. Also she taught us how to use and how to read the words. I also learned some new words and many other things. I still not good writing and spelling but it help me a lot. I know I am not good writing sentence, but I will be good some day because I am not give up. I still try until I be good at it. I do thank you all providers let me have this class and thank you Mrs. Baron, you teach us good and have fun also. I hope someday we have class for GED.

Son Hui Hawkins, Enro

This class helped with doctor, hospital, and my job. I have learned talk with supervisor about my machine ... or some thing I need. I like to learned about store, food I think I can open little store and I can buy Vietnamese food. I m very like do my job. I can do that my self look like father store Korea food.

Duc V. Lee, Enro

An Opportunity to Learn

I learned to talk right
Is hard for me to write
I understand
I need more practise
I will be to study
Who was the weather
In the United States is good weather
In some places is to hot
The table is clean
My coat is cleaned
My job is easy
I work stand up
My lunch is early
I respect my book
My pencil is old
Consuelo Leon, Euro

The class was very helpful to me. I'll learned more about verb, adjective, pronoun, and how to use them here at work. The English refresh me to help my daughter in school at elementary level. Anne is a good instructor and understand with me while work, and out of class.
Deborah Lobb, Euro

English as a second language is so hard to me. The first time when I came in United States I did not understand well. I was scare when I talk and met somebody also. But I thought it through. I have to study English more and more. It will be help me feel better if I stay in United States. I try to listen careful somebody talking. Pronunciation very difficult to me to understand that but now I feel better after I attended this class, because my teacher gave to me a lot of new word, vocabulary. We can talk together. Discussion made my knowledge improve so I am not afraid any more and I always appreciate my boss and my teacher helped me very much about how to speak English.
Van Ngo, Euro

This English as a second Language class has helped me many problems, especially in the activities such as working, shopping, visiting the doctor, going to the hospital, call 911 in the emergency case. My teacher teached me so carefully about that and I can practice almost all the situations, it's very necessary for me. Before taking place in this class, I couldn't speak English fluency, and I scared so much when somebody asked me, but now I feel better. I can answer easier. I really appreciated every body who has responsibility to help me to improve my knowledge in this class, especially Mrs. Anne, my teacher.
Diep Nguyen, Euro

Two years ago I didn t know how to speak English as American people. However, I have been studying English since 1991 but I couldn t understand what they say. I feel English is not easy to learn. I was glad with this class attended.

I am living in the United States. I must to know how to speak English as I must to understand English. I have to learn every word after class, and often watching TV, and read short paragraph. English is interesting language, most people who live in the U.S. have to speak English and understand. For me

if I know English it should help me to consult any reason. For example, if I got trouble or accident I can talk to them to know how does it bad.

Learning English is not easy for me, I have to help someone who knows English, and has experience to teach for national people. I hope this information will teach more and more in future. This semester helped me much better to understand as heard from someone talk to me.

Thank you for your help.

Kim Loan, Euro

I like this English Class because my teacher taught and me understand so much verbs, nouns and pronouns etc.... She very happy and nice the second language helped me talk, write, understand in my job. I hope I still have the English class in the future.

Be Kim Nhan, Euro

An Opportunity to Learn

I like to study English more and more. The teacher help me to understand in the class. I like this class. This class very fun. I learn more word in English. Learn English, help me understand new paper and how I can order ticket in theater and about women benefit, how I can spell correct words...

Nga-Pham-Thi-Bich, Euro

I like this class. Because this class help me know more than a second language. So I like learn this English as a second language. They taught me know vocabulary of English. I learned and understand a little about this English. But I want to learn more and more.

Thuong-Pham, Euro

Since ever I has been in this English as a second Language class, I feel like grow up at that time. I still desire to learning more and more because I think all most the Vietnamese people even me, got a big trouble for language pronunciation, and another thing. I look like the little child begin to learn to speak. When I was in this class I understood a lot of word which I didn't know. It has helped to well talking with each other at work. I feel great and pleasure to be in this class. I love the teacher in this class.

Quy Truong, Euro

English as a second language class has helped me speaking English better than before. I understand the United States more than before. I understand when my supervisor tells me what I have to do. I understand what the people American or co-worker tell me what I should do or what I wouldn't. That is making feel comfortable in my job. This ESL class has helped me reading schedule television, on newspaper and understanding what time movie in theater start. Maybe I know what kinds the movie I like the best.

I learned how to read English, pronunciation, how to spell the words English, vocabulary, grammar how to make a sentence correctly.

I have learned English myself first I try to memorize what the sentence the teacher teach me. After that I have to find people American, they are speaking English. Well I tell them right away, some words I know how to spell but I can't pronounce correct. I asked them and I practice many time to say correctly.

Thuynga Tran, Euro

I like about this class I can learn language and communication. I like see people and get to sew. What I don't like one thing after work and come in this class make very tired. But I like learn very much. That's why I come.

Micha Johnson, Euro

I am work in Enro about 3 year but I don't speak English and this year Enro company have open English class. I like that because I can speak more English and I have understand more English and I am happy.

Duc Le, Enro

I like this English class. Also I learn about a lot of things and our teacher is very nice person. I wish learn more English and now writing and I want to fill up any kind of paper by myself. Some day I will know good English and how write.

I like everything about this class. So I don't have any questions. Thank you.

OK Sun Kees, Enro

In this English Class we study English grammar. We study English words and English sentences. I like this class because I must talking to English people and must understand what they talking to me. Our teacher is very beautiful woman. We like her and say "thank you very much."

Sofya Shtevrngob, Enro

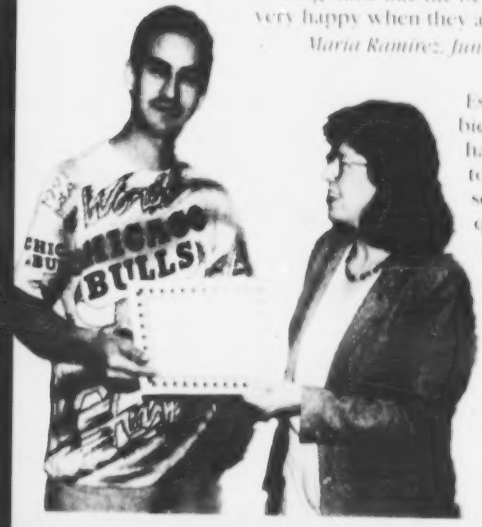
This English class began on September 8, 1994. I learned some new works from this class. It make me easy to understand some American people working with me. I can tell them some things I need and they understand me. I understand a little about parts of speech. I know what is a sentence. But I didn't do enough my homework. I'm sorry about that. I'm beginning my new life so I am busy and a lot mistake happen. I can't stop it. I will better to do perfect everything. I like to learn this English class, that is save some my money instead of go to J.C.C.

Thuy Nga Tran, Enro

What The Worker Education Program Means to Me

I think that this program is very good because I am learning English. I think that my co-workers in the English class are thinking same like me because all students look very happy when they are in the class room.

Maria Ramirez, Juno



Este programa esta muy bien. Ensenan muy bien hablar, hablar ingles todas las clases y seguimos adelante para que quisiera aprendermos hablar el ingles con el tiempo quizas podermos contestamos.

Eustaquio Delgado, Juno

An Opportunity to Learn

I have six months in this class. I like it because I have learned more English. Also I practice with the nice teacher and all the students.

When I started the class I didn't know how to write English and read too. The teacher helped me. That's why I've improved.

I feel good about the class. Last year my daughter told me, "Mommy, could you help me with my homework." I told her, "I can't because I don't know decimals." Last six months, she asked me the same question, and I helped her because I know decimals now.

I would like to learn more English, about all the verbs, past and future. I need more practice. It is difficult for me. For example, the verb "to be," it's very difficult to learn.

Well, I have the class and I would like to stay in the class room and learn more English to have a better future. For example, I could be a secretary. Thank you.

Fidelina Alvarez, Juno

February 28, 1995

I wrote English. I feel good because the teachers explain very clearly in the class.

I am attending for 2 years. Only 3 months I didn't come to class because I was sick. But when I came back I studied English. Many people should think about this program because this program is very good for the future.

Beda Vargas, Juno

For one month, I have been attending this English class. I feel I'm learning too many new words I didn't know before and I like this class. I have been attending before too many programs of English class in other places, but I learned almost nothing. Now, I feel that I'm learning more English. Now when I'm watching TV or listening to the radio, I can understand too many words that I didn't understand before.

So now, I'm here to learn the most English I can, so in the future I can get a better job. It is for this reason I want to learn more English and I feel I'm learning in this class because the teacher helps me too much. So, I'm very happy attending this class. I like it.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in this letter. Now when I'm going to the stores, I can buy anything. So I can communicate with somebody who speaks English!

Juan Anguiano, Juno

For me to learn English is so important because it is the language in this country. It is so important because if you know how to speak, read and write English you can do your own things.

For example, in the factory, you can talk with the supervisor. This is so important because we need to have communication, because lots of times we have problems and we need to fix these problems.

Another good example is when we need to make our own appointments with the dentist, with the doctor, we need English. For something related to the car or for example, if you have a house and you need to know something about the payments, or when you go to the store and you need to know about the specials or what is on sale, English is important.

I have been attending school for almost two years and I feel that I have improved myself because I have learned many new words. I have learned how to spell and the meaning of different words.

Gerardo Ayala, Junio

THE WORKER EDUCATION PROGRAM

This program is very good for the people who want to learn and improve. I feel good because I like this program. The teachers in my class are very good. They do their work with very much enthusiasm. I would like many people to think about their future. In this class, I have learned many things, math, grammar, history, geography, reading, writing, speaking, listening and other things. I was in the other programs and I learned something, but I have my head a little hard. Then I try and try. Maybe some day I learn much. I hope that I improve. Thanks for giving this program.

Cirila Mendez, Junio

An Opportunity to Learn

TESTIMONIALS PRESENTED TO WORKERS AT JUNO LIGHTING, MARCH 1995

Estamos aqui para hacerles saber que Juno tiene un programa en ingles para sus trabajadores. Nosotros, los hispanos es necesario aprender ingles por que asi nos podemos comunicar con personas que no saben español, o cuando uno va a pedir informacion de trabajo y no sabemos llenar una aplicacion. Y les digo esto por que cuando yo empece yo no sabia nada pero ahora he aprendido a leer y a escribir y por eso les digo que se animen a aprendan ingles. Miren, como ustedes saben, tenemos una maestra que nos tiene mucha paciencia y el nombre de ella es Shobha.

Maria Ramirez, Juno

Trabajo en el Departamento 100. Tengo seis meses en este programa y he mejorado mas de lo que yo me imagine. Yo les recomiendo mucho entrar al programa de ingles por que es muy importante para todos nosotros. Como ustedes ya saben, cuando venimos llegando a los Estados Unidos, muchas personas que ya entienden ingles nos humillan y nos descriman. Todo por que no entendemos ingles. Es por eso que yo les recomiendo la escuela, es muy dificil para las personas que tenemos ninos sirve para muchas cosas.

Por ejemplo, ayudarles a nuestro hijo hacer sus tareas, o papeles importantes de immigracion o cualquier papel que sea importante. Un ejemplo mi hija, el ano pasado me dijo, "Mami ayudame con la tarea." Yo le conteste, "No puedo por que yo no se decimales." Hace unos meses atras me dijo lo mismo y yo le ayude, por que desde que me inscribi en esta clase you he mejorado y he aprendido. Otro ejemplo cuando yo entre en Juno yo no sabia los nombres de las herramientas. Gracias a la escuela y a la maestra y a mi esfuerzo. Yo me aprendi los nombres de las herramientas.

Companeras es muy importante aprender ingles para poder mejorar, no dejar que nos humillen, tener que salir adelante, que cuando alguien nos hable, levantar la cara hacia enfrente y no bajar la cabeza de verguenza, por que no entendemos ingles.

Por el momento es todo y espero que estos consejos les ayuden en algo. Su humilde servidora...

Fidelina Alvarez, Juno

I work at Owens Corning Fiberglass. This is the last day of the English class program. We have been together for about 4 months. My English teacher Judy she has been very nice and patient and helpful. She taught us how to read, write, and spell English. She also taught us how to do math. I learn many things from her that going to help me at my work.

Judy thank you very much for all your help.

Horacio Arroyo, Owens Corning

When I came to the U.S.A. I didn't know English. Then I took an English class and learned some English. Then I got a job at Wendy's. I worked there as a salad organizer. After that I worked at Perfect Plastic Company for one year. Now I work here at Phoenix Closures. Now I can understand English but I don't speak English very well.

Jyoti Dave, Phoenix Closures

I need to write. I need to read for I want to learn so many things new. And for my job and my new work I need to read for getting job for my communications.

Gaitbu Lee, Phoenix Closures

ENGLISH CLASS

I have found my English class very helpful, because I have learned to write better and read better. Also, I like the time that it is given, but I would like that some how we can make the class more active - in other words - practice the pronunciation and teach more vocabulary.

I think that the idea to teach the employees is very good, because that way can have better communication at the work area. This will give good results.

Vicente Sanchez, Phoenix Closures

ABOUT CLASS

I like the class reading and writing.

I think it is better if they help us to get our GED, because in the future we are going to need it for any kind of jobs.

About capital letter or punctuation, we need to go to different stuff.

I need to learn big words that I don't know, and vocabulary.

We have a nice teacher. She helps us a lot. Thank you.

Yolanda Cabral 02/27/95, Phoenix Closures

An Opportunity to Learn

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED IN CLASS

I have learned how to spell my words correctly. I also have learned in sentences - where you put your period, commas, and quotation marks. I also learned what is capitalized, which I didn't know. Also what I am learning is memorizing things, which I am still working on.

Aurora Chavez, Phoenix Closures

I like my class the English because I learn to speak what my teacher explains very good. I understand when I speak in my class. I like coming because I like writing English. Some words are new for me. My class English help my communication for everybody. I like to know the people American because they have different ideas and customs in life. Because I learn to speak everybody.

Leonso Salazar, Phoenix Closures

When I hear about this program at work, I felt too exited because that way I have the opportunity to learn at the same place of work. That's why I don't have to be worried about going to work. Because I'm here. This class has been helping me to feel more enthusiastic to learn better English. Now I'm thinking seriously to try to take the GED class. I like the class. It's very helpful for me.

Manuela Ramirez, Phoenix Closures

This class has been very helpful for my education. It has opened my brain more. I have learned so much. Sometimes it takes me a little while to understand, like this morning the verbs and punctuation. The English language in written is more confusing than to speak, and because of this class I started reading and writing more at home.

Maria Velazquez, Phoenix Closures

OUR PRE-ALGEBRA CLASS

I think is a good ways to learn something that we already use but didn't know how we did. I feel better because I am doing better than I thought. Is helping me to understand the sizes of bolts and tools I use. I know I can learn faster than I guess before.

Valentin Dominguez, Phoenix Closures

This class is a challenge. It make me think I'm review the first I learn in Spanish. So the hard time, it was subtract signs. In the future I think we going to use it.

Yolanda Cabral, Phoenix Closures

I like the class a lot as long as we don t get to much more involved in solving for x or y. The time is Ok, (not longer than 2 hours.) This class is a review of what I forgot 14 years ago. The hardest part is the fraction and what to do to cancel them.

Dan Ryan, Phoenix Closures

I always had problem with mathematics, that's why I took this class because. I think if someone else can do it, I think, I can also. This class is a challenge for me. I like this class and I like to continue. I feel some change because now I can help my kids with their math or algebra.

Gerardo Contreras, Phoenix Closures

This class is a challenge. It makes me think, after having been out of school for thirty one years. When the class end, I will have no use for algebra. My husband helps me with my math, but when we get finish, I have a terrible headache. He does a lot of the math in his head mentally, which I to see the problem on paper. I would like to see some kind of computer classes.

Karen Molitor, Phoenix Closures

I think that the pre-algebra class help us to improve our knowledge of math. I like the class because the time that is given and what I learn from it I would like if we can describe more clear what are we going to cover with this class. Also I would like that somehow we can cover the G.E.D. math class.

Vicente Sanchez, Phoenix Closures

I have four children.

Two daughters and two sons.

I m from Mexico.

I came to the United States fourteen years ago.

I like it because there are many jobs.

I like it because my children have a good education. And in the future they will get a good job.

Last year I started to study English two days a week.

I like it because right now I can write my history in English.

Martha Ochoa, Suncast

An Opportunity to Learn

I work at Suncast. I started work in March of 1986. It's my first job and I haven't had any other. At the beginning I was very scared because I didn't know about any work and because I didn't speak English. Now I feel very pleased. I don't speak English but some people help me. Thanks to them I can communicate with my supervisor and my bosses. What I want to say is that I feel happy in my work and I hope nothing bad happens at my work.

Maria Luisa Duran, Suncast

I'm married. I have one daughter.

I have been working at Suncast for seven years.

I like to practice English because I need to write and read more to help my daughter.

Also because I like to speak English.

Susan and Laura,

You are teachers, too much intelligent. Thanks for helping me.

Rita L. Olivas, Suncast

I like to come to school to learn more and to speak more English.

Because the teachers have patience.

And also, I would like my daughter to be able to ask me questions when she goes to school. I would also like to look for a better job in the future. I want to spend more time with my family. I would like to learn English.

Fabiola Dominguez, Suncast

Langauge Experience Stories Written by Learners at Suncast

The man is an inspector. The woman is a secretary. The inspector is angry. The secretary is scared. She committed an error. She made an error with money - $1000.00. The inspector asked: "How much money did you take?" The secretary said, "I don't know." The inspector asked, "What did you do with the money?" The secretary said: "I didn't take it. I don't know what happened." She is innocent.

The man in the office is an accountant. He is angry.

The inspector calls the police. They ask her, "What happened to the money?" She says, "I don't know."

Florensia Aguirre, Celia Campos, Maria Lopez, Consepcion Mendez, Suncast

He is a sales agent. She is a secretary. He is the boss.

The sales agent says to the secretary, "I have a problem." The secretary says, "What's the problem?" The sales agent says, "My problem is my check. The check is off one day. I only paid for 32 hours." The secretary says, "Please sit down. I'll talk with my boss."

The boss is angry. He's angry at the sales agent because he didn't punch in.

The sales agent says, "I want to talk to your boss and explain why I was late."

The secretary says, "Why were you late?" The sales agent says, "I have a problem with my car - the tires and other problems."

Antonia Corral, Roberto Lozano, Juana Herrera, Hortencia Garcia, Ismael Espinal, Isabel Rojas, Suncast

An Opportunity to Learn

FEEDBACK ON MOCK INTERVIEWS WITH MANAGEMENT AT SUNCAST

I was very nervous in the interview.
I think, he did not understand me.
I think, if the answer was correct.
Sometimes I m not looking to the eyes.
I was confused with the questions.
The questions were about my work.
One of the questions was "What are your goals?"

Isabel Olivas, Norma Contreras, Alicia Garcia, Francisca Moreno, Suncast

My name is Norma Contreras I study English now. It has helped me in my work and to make appointments with the doctor, when I go to the store, and when I speak with the teacher of my daughter.

Norma Contreras, Suncast

I like the English class, because not need to have another person interpret. It is very important every day in school. I also like the two teachers because they have patience with us. That s everything for now. Thank you Susan and Sallie.

Fabiola Dominguez, Suncast

When I came to U. S A it was difficult for me at first because I didn t speak English and here it is very necessary to understand people, at stores, hospitals, jobs, with your friends. For that reason I take English class at my work and every day I want to learn everything about life in the U. S A. I appreciate my teachers because they teach me a lot about my job and outside too, and my main goal is I to want to find another job, with more responsibility.

Esperanza Murillo, Suncast

When I started to work in this company, I didn t need very much English, but now I have to communicate with more people. For example: we have a meeting every day and I have to explain the problems at work. My supervisor only speak to us in English. For that reason, I appreciate this class.

Ofelia Murillo, Suncast

A mi me gusta mis clases de ingles porque puedo aprender muchas cosas para salir adelante. Y eso tambien me ayuda mas en mi trabajo porque yo quisiera ser trainer o algo mas en mi trabajo pero no puedo porque no se ingles. Entiendo pero muy poco. I like Susan y Sallie porque me ensenan muy bien.

I like my English classes because I can learn a lot of things to get ahead. They also help me in my work because I would like to be a trainer or something else at work. I can t because I don t know English I understand very little I like Susan and Sallie because they teach me very well.

Juana Verdugo (February 28, 1995), Suncast

February 28, 1995

Mi trabajo en Suncast. Me gusta mucho trabajar empacando en las lineas de assembly y tambien me gusto tambien tener todo en orden en el trabajo lo hago con mucho gusto.

Y tambien quiero aprender a leer ingles por eso vengo a que me ensenen para superarme un poco por que yo quiero superarme y para salir adelante.

I work at Suncast. I like to work on the assembly lines packing and also like to keep everything in order. I like doing it. I also want to learn to read English. For that reason I come to class to better myself. I want to improve myself and get ahead.

Maria Lopez, Suncast

2-27-95

I like my job of material handler and learn very many things.

I had some problems, but I feel very good.

In the English class too.

I learn very many words.

I don t know.

Carlos Sosa, Suncast

English class helps me very much in my job. Sometimes my supervisor sends me to the clinic with other co-workers. I interpret for him. Now, when I want to leave early I can tell my supervisor in English. Sometimes I make an appointment in English.

I can understand my children better.

Martha Ochoa, Suncast

2-27-94

I like English class because I want to speak very good English.

I like this factory because they give me chance to come to English class. I come two days a week and they give me other opportunities.

Gilberto Rivera, Suncast

Hi. Let me tell you something, when I started in this class I didn t know how to write a composition about what I learned in my class. Now I know how to do that. Then when I talk with my supervisor I always try to speak English with him. I know I can learn more, for example I write in my home and I watch English TV. I want to talk more in the class and I give it my best.

Raymundo Briones, Suncast

I understand how English class helps a lot of people here to speak. I understand more already. I can speak to my supervisor at work and in her office. I can call for an appointment.

Eva Ferrer, Suncast

An Opportunity to Learn

I m Jose Cruz Ramirez

I've been here since two years ago in this class when I started. My only way was continue always. When I came to English class I received help from the teacher. My team other people are in the class room always coming with enthusiasm to learn.

I had to 2 years ago and know. I learned a lot of words and these words helped in here, in my life, out there. I had more communication with more people and I like it so much. I appreciate this. Thanks Sally and Susan for helping me. I will appreciate this forever.

Jose Cruz Ramirez, Suncast

2-28-95

Las clases de ingles son muy buenas. Las maestras explican muy bien todo. Agradesco a mis bosses de mi fabrica que se preocupan por que sus empliados aprendan Ingles.

Gracias por preocuparse por nosotros.

My name is Maria Ayala I work at Suncast corporation. My supervisor is Patrick.

The English classes very good. The teachers explain everything very well I apreciate my bosses at the factory for caring that we learn English.

Thanks for caring about us.

Maria Ayala, Suncast

I like to study. I like the teachers very much. I like to talk English to my supervisor. If I have a problem I can talk to my supervisor in English and tell Patrick there is a problem with machine number 7 or 8. Thanks for everything.

Ismael Espinal, Suncast

6-15-94

I am married. I have one daughter. I have been working at Suncast for seven years. I like to practice English because I need to write and read more to help my daughter. Also because I like to speak English.

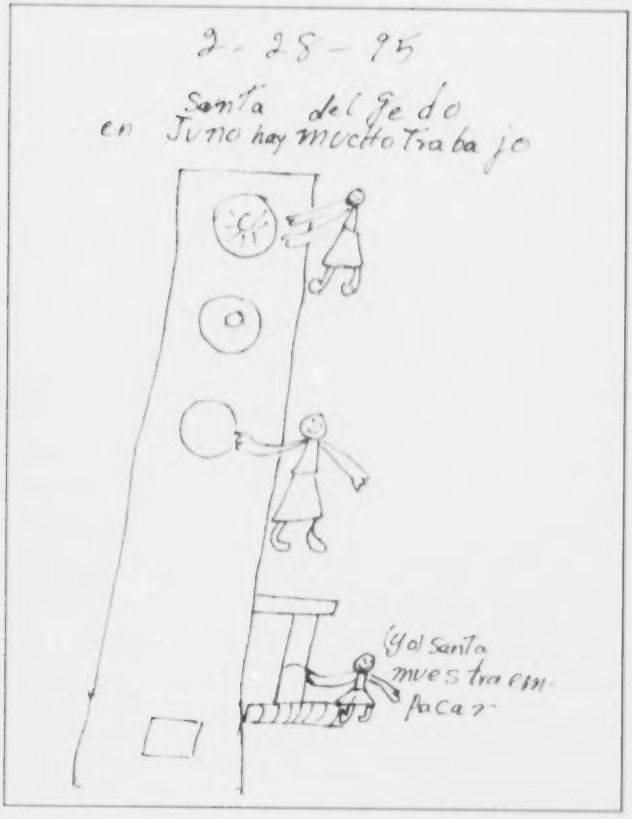
Susan and Laura your are teachers too much intelligent thanks for help me.

Rita L. Olivas, Suncast

3-10-95

I have gone to the class for a long time. I could not speak much English, when I started the class. Now I speak more and it is easier to talk to my friends. I can watch T.V. in English. I have learned English in class and I can talk about problems. I understand more. I know how to do my job better in the factory, because I understand more English. But sometimes it is easy for me to forget. I have no time to do my homework.

Seek Ling Ho Shek, ACTWU Class


2-25-95
en Santa del Jedo
Juno hay mucho Traba jo
(Yo) Santa
mues tra em-
paca r-

As workers recollect about their past jobs and project their lives into the future, they are able to capture from a variety of perspectives what work means to them. Workers offer their thoughts about what it means to be a union member and they speculate and imagine what it would be like to have a different kind of job. These narratives show how their thinking about their past and their future open up new ways of thinking about themselves and their work.

Some companies hire workers because they have the job experience needed to do the job. Some people are hired because they have the educational background needed to do the job. Some people get hired the job because they don't have many skills and the company doesn't have to pay them much money. Some people get hired the job because they are illegal residents and can't ask for much money or help.

Kam Yu, ACTWU Class

Some people are hired for a job because they have got experience and know English and can find a job in America. Now my son was it very difficult for my son to find a job. He has sent a lot of letters to be hired a job. He hasn't find the job.

Suk Ling Ho Shek, ACTWU Class

Some people are hired for a job because they have experience.

Some people are hired for a job because they are work hard and honest.

Some people are hired for a job because they have a good educational background.

Some people are hired for a job because they speak little English.

Some people are hired for a job because they don't have skills and paid low salary.

Some people are hired for a job because they have a good skills.

Kam Lee, ACTWU Class

Some people are hired for a job because they have experience.

Some people are hired for a job because they can speak more than two languages.

Some people are hired for a job because they are honest.

Some people are hired for a job because they are strong.

Some people are hired for a job because they have good education.

Yeung N. Mark, ACTWU Class

Some people are hired for a job because they have experience.

Some people are hired for a job because they know English.

Some people are hired for a job because they are honest, work hard, good background.

Some people are hired for a job because they don't have bad habits, like no smoking, do not take drugs and no alcohol.

Some people are hired for a job because they work for less money.

Anita Ho Yau, ACTWU Class

Do you know, what I like to be? I like to be an owner for some business, restaurant or beauty salon. But never have time, all the time clean the house, iron clothes, washing, make the food and all the time I'm tired. Always the same routine. Oh! I forgot something, working always. The week-end is not enough for everything. I can help my son because I have a lot problems with him in the school. He always tired and don't like nothing. I don't know what I can do for him. Maybe he needs professional help. And again I forgot the most important, I got no money.

Graciela Santillano, American Guard-It

I was working at elementary school cafeteria in Germany and it was Feb. 13, 1987. We were preparing school lunch for the children. The menu for that day was hamburgers. I was using the meat slicer to slice tomatoes and meantime, I didn't know I cut my thumb. Rita was next me at the time. She saw my thumb is cut and she called my name. Then I looked down at my thumb and I saw it was bleeding. We then went to the emergency room. The Dr. cleaned and stitched it together. It took about 6 weeks my thumb to be heeled.

Son Hui Hawkins, Enro

When I working too much my arms and hand getting pain. I tell the supervisor I come late tomorrow because I have to go to the doctor. The doctor gave me the medicine and told me that I need to work out every day about 15 minutes. It help for the shoulder, chest, wrist and arms, etc. to reduce the pain. The best thing reduce the pain gone is to work out. I feel better the next day.

Be Kim Nhan, Enro

Free Trade

I believe that for some reasons Free Trade is good and for some other reasons it is not so good for the people especially from Mexico.

Since January first of 1994, Canada, U.S.A., and Mexico made an agreement among themselves.

Mexico has been in very difficult problems since that agreement. First the revolutions of the Zapatistas in Chiapas where lot of people died was a problem.

This agreement is called NAFTA which means North America Free Trade Agreement.

About the Union and Free Trade. I know that the union disagrees with the Free Trade but is a lot of things that need to be considered, better working conditions for the people, like wages, health, conditions of work, benefits, etc.

Many people can get a job thanks to the Free Trade, but they are not satisfied with the money. They need better conditions of work, to make a better life for themselves.

Personally I m agree with the Free Trade but I believe that is a lot of things that need to be fixed, for example the wages and better conditions of work. And one thing very important for everybody is the contamination because many factories send the garbage and waste to the rivers, to the green areas and these wastes are killing all the natural life.

Gerardo Ayala (fall 1994), Juno

IMAGINE A GOOD JOB

For me a good job is one which we have a good communication between the managers and the employers. A nice place to work is where we have a good atmosphere in the work, and the managers and the employees are working as a team. They have good record in the work.

A good job is one which we have a good insurance, good benefits for all the people. One more thing that I believe is important, is a good and clean place to work, and good safety rules.

Gerardo Ayala 12/12/94, Juno

My job title is assembly worker. Because I am alert and capable, I jump in where I am needed. When mistakes are made or material is defective, I report it to management.

I am a union representative. It s my job to report unfair employee treatment to the union steward so they can take it up with management.

I find my job interesting and challenging. Some people are too competitive and don t care who they hurt to get where they want to go. I do my job to the best of my ability and try to help others when I can.

Team work is the key to success.

Jesusita Stegman, Juno

I am working in the Bar Hanger s Dept right now. We have an election for a union steward but people are so confused they don t know how to start a committee.

Personally, I think that we should have a meeting and then let the people know what are the responsibilities and benefits of being a steward in Dept. 200. We need about two persons so I guess a man and a lady would be ideal.

Being a steward means not to be against company or union shop. It is just being or just doing the correct thing too, watch for arbitration or illegalities, and come to the meetings.

Magdalina Murillo, Juno

IMAGINE

I wish to work in a hospital care baby or I want to work the assistant dental because I will talk with the people. But I need to learn English.

Elizabeth Martinez 02/08/95, Juno

I work in Juno Lighting for 8 years. I work in department 600. I work in assembly line. My job is very easy. Sometimes it is boring because sometimes it is tiring.

Imagine another job.

I imagine another job. It is Flight Attendant. I like to be Flight Attendant because I go to many states. I see many people. I like this job.

Sylvia Hernandez 02/06/95, Juno

I work in Juno Lighting. I work in department 100. I have been " years in this job. My kind of work is assembly, every day change of place after lunch. I like to operate the rivet machine. My co-workers are good with me. I will hope I never have problems with them.

If I had the opportunity of studying, I would like to study full time because I would like to become a lawyer. I like that because this profession is useful in different forms. For example, a lawyer can defend the civil rights of the people. A lawyer knows many things that could help the people when somebody needs help. A lawyer is a person who has better education and is very professional. I love this profession.

Cintia Mendez 02/95, Juno

I work in Juno Lighting. I work in department 500, Receiving. I pull orders to take to the lines. I like this job, but sometimes I get bored because it is the same routine every day. I would like to work one day on a computer to do something different, something new you know.

As I told you before, I have been 11 years working for Juno Lighting. I like this job, but my goal is to study more about computers. I went to computer class about 1 year ago and I liked it. For me it is fun to be writing on a computer, or to be playing on a computer, because I like the computers. So maybe one day I'll get a job in something related to computers. Maybe everthing can happen in this life. What do you think about what I think?

Juan Anguiano 02/06/95, Juno

I work in Department 600. I work in the assembly line. My kind of job is to put the rims in the baffles. I like my job because it isn't difficult.

I have been at Juno Lighting for five years. I like my job because I don't have problems with my supervisor, only with co-workers when we change the place.

I would like to be a lawyer because I like to see that the laws to help many people. Then I can have more money!

Beda Vargas, Juno

DIFFICULT ACTIVITY

The most difficult activity for me is to get up in the morning, but after I get up I drive to Juno each day.

I believe that the majority of all the work is easy because I have been working in Juno almost eight years. I think that after such a long time, and day after day doing the same work, everything becomes easier.

I'm a union steward too. And I feel that sometimes it is hard to be a union steward because not always you can get everything or what you think that is fair for the people.

For me to wake up early in the morning is difficult, but what I must do is go to bed and sleep as much as I can. I have a problem in the night because sometimes I go to bed so late, sometimes because I'm watching the news, a Bulls game, or doing things in the house.

Gerardo Ayala, Juno

Right now I am sitting in English class. Teacher looking at us surprise how much have we learn.

I could hear the forklift behind the wall. And far behind the wall I could hear the noise machines. Places like this, person can't be allowed without ear plugs and safety glasses. Right next to our plant is a park where me and my co-workers used to go and play basketball in the morning after work. Since we studying we lost interest in playing.

Isidoro Angulano, Owens Corning

Pat: Hello, this is Pat Velez.
Sup: Hello Pat, what's up?
Pat: Dean, I'm not coming today. 1/9/95.
Sup: Why not?
Pat: My car broke down.
Sup: OK, remember you will get 1/2 point.
Pat: Yes, I will come back. 1/10/95.
Sup: OK Pat, good bye.
Pat: Bye.

Pat Velez, Phoenix Closures

Before I came to Phoenix Closures I worked at Anchor Brush for 16 1/2 years. We made tooth brushes, hair brushes, hospital bands, combs, mirrors, and vegetable brushes. I first operated one machine at a time. We made lots of different brushes. The company moved to another state.

6 months later I started to work at Phoenix Closures. I operate the same type of machines. We makes all different size caps. Bottles. I have worked first shift for seven years. Dr. D is my supervisor. He is head in my department.

I get three weeks vacation. I like to visit with my family when I am on vacation. I visit relatives in Mississippi, in Memphis Tenn, in Champaign, IL and Ind. One of my sons lives in California. He has 3 children. I was there for ten days this summer.

Christine Pryor, Phoenix Closures

WHEN I CAME TO THE UNITED STATES

My first job was in an Office Furniture Company. In this company, I learned how to work with a spot welder, gas welder, arc welder, punch press and the assembly line.

My second job was at a paper company. In this company, I learned how to run more than five different kinds of machines. After these two jobs, I worked in a foundry company for a short time, until I found this job at Phoenix Closures where I started as an Extruder helper, then operator and maintenance person.

Gerardo Contreras, Phoenix Closures

I have been working at Suncast for 9 years and I feel very pleased. I like my work.

I feel very comfortable with my friends at work.

Maria Lopez, Suncast

It s February 28, 1995, Suncast

Yo en mi trabajo tengo problemas con el aire acondicionado por que nos arde mucho los ojos por que el aire esta muy caliente.

I have problems with the air conditioning at work because the heat burns my eyes because the air is very hot.

Maria Barajas, Suncast

My job is very interesting. People do their jobs the easiest and fastest ways. They can do their jobs without getting tired, learn about them too. They have good ideas. I think I have to learn how to calm down when they have a complaint and sometimes yell at me. I think my job is interesting because I learn to be understood. I really like my job and the English class helps me to practice my English.

Maria Garcia , Suncast

About my job on Suncast is I think my job at Suncast its very important because in my department (PIC) we need to know everything about the molding productions. Molding has maybe 45 machines. Sometimes my job is hard because we are only 3 guys.

When the operator packages the products we need to put on the labels, after Q C stamped the products to make the quantity according to the information on some sheets and put the information in the computer. I liked my work because it's very busy every day. In this company I find many friends every year.

Ricardo Caballero, Suncast

6-15-94

Empece a trabajar en 1982 el dia 18 de Febrero y trabajo dos anos en molding y trabaje cuatro anos de inspectora de hose reel y trabaje cuatro anos de Q C y me gusta mucho mi trabajo y estoy contenta porque gusta.

I began working at Suncast on February 18, 1982. I worked in molding for 2 years. I was a hose reel inspector for 4 years. I have been working in Q. C. for 4 years now, and I like my work a lot. I am happy.

Maria Garcia, Suncast

10-4-94

I like work at Suncast because they give opportunity to learn English better and I like my work. I work in small assembly, sometimes we work in groups. Sometimes I test parts with other people. I hope to keep working with this company and to continue to learn more English.

Fabiolia Dominguez, Suncast

I work at Suncast since 1992. I started in the first shift, my supervisor is Mike Waitekus and Senia taught me the job and she was a good teacher and I learned quickly. After I learn the job become training job and I enjoyed showing someone something. Now I get a new job, I am lead training and I help my supervisor in my department and I get a lot of experience in it and I practice English with him and he shows me other skills.

Rodolfo Arendano, Suncast

I work at a factory. I am a machine operator. I go to work at 6:00 all week. I go to English class Monday and Wednesday at 6:10. The supervisor decides the days off, usually everyone wants Saturday and Sunday off. When I come in I get my gloves and knife and ask what machine I get. The worst day is when the parts have too much flash and the foreman can't fix the machine and I have to trim the flash. Usually they give six day schedules but in the spring the business or the factory is slow and they give five day schedules.

Raymundo Briones, Suncast

8-10-95

I am from Hong Kong. I have live in Chi ago for almost 24 years. I have two sons. When they were in first grade I went out to work. I was a sewing machine operator in a factory. In 1980 I started to work at Oxxford Clothes Inc. My job is dart sewing. Sometimes my work is difficult, but sometimes it is easy. In Jan. 1995 my company changed. My company changed the new owner. They give us too much trouble. They've cut 10% off the rate. And changing new system everyday. Also they give us a hard time. We feel bad all the time. In the future we hope the business goes on better.

Kam Lee, Oxxford Clothing

Careful Put on Your Safety Glasse

ISMAELESPINAL

A Careful!

B Excuse me

A Put on your Safety Glasses

B oh thanks for the warning

RobertoLozano

The immigrant experience is a central theme in the history of the United States. Taken together these stories show how a new wave of immigrants from Latin America, Asia, and Eastern Europe are experiencing their life in a new land. These stories chronicle how workers came to the United States and how they are coping with the challenges of living in a new culture. The stories reflect their longings for the culture they have left behind and their hopes for their themselves and their children in their adopted country.

I work in Juno
My address is Chicago
My mother no working
My supervisor is Pablo Cortez
Imelda work every day
In factory. hot!
Imelda Ayala, ACTWU Class

I am from Mexico. I come to the United States just a short time ago. I started working in America wanted to get a job but I didn t know English. I asked my friend help me. I worked in a factory for 9 year ago. My job is good but paid little money.
I need to study for look the other job.
Marina Ferreira-Calderon, ACTWU Class

I came to United States 30 years ago. I started working one month later when came to Chicago.
My aunt bring me and. she help me to find a job.
My first job was at Corsets factory. I working on sewing machine. I was working in clothes factory and now I working at Elementary school. I like this job because I m trying to understand a little English of the children.
Raquel Ahmad 06/18/94, ACTWU Class

My History
My first job I working a factory for 1 year. My brother help me have my job. He talk to the supervisors. He said you get a job today working for one year machine operator washing and cleaning pieces for one year. Next job I have now a machine operator waste glass for factory. Nobody help me find my jobs I working now for six year. I really like my job in my department. We working five days a week eight hours a day.
Jorge Mendoza, ACTWU Class

When I saw Chicago for the first time I thought about it. how a OLD VILLAGE. For me. all houses were equal. the streets were the same too. maybe because I came in winter but I don t get scared to get lost in the street.
I like Chicago because is easy to buy and travel and all time I can go anywhere with my family.
But I don t like the routine.
I m happy but when I remember my family. I miss Mexico.
Maricela Lopez. American Guard II

My first impression when I arrived to Chicago wasn t good. The city, for me, is a very old city. My husband said me "welcome to the most ugly city". I saw the most streets and buildings old, ugly, and in ruins.

I love the snow in winter, but the weather in general, I don t like.

I know that Chicago has too some beautiful places, like the big buildings in downtown. But really, I don t like live here, for many things. There are many gangs, no good jobs for me. I think is a dangerous city. I miss my city, my family, my friends, my work, etc.

Maria Hernandez, American Guard II

I am working in "Enro" now. I came from Belorassia in October 29, 1993. I lived in Minsk. Minsk is capital of Belorassia. There are much factories, offices and theaters. There is a river in Minsk. The Minsk is very beautiful city. Now I sew shirts. I like my job.

Rita Militsakh, Enro

I m a worker. I work Enro shirt Company. I begin to work 6 weeks ago. I m training a cuff of shirt. I like my job but sometimes I feel sad because some shirts I make wrong and I must fix them. I lost my time very much, but I think after long time I work here I will better.

I m from Vietnam. I just came America 3 months. Everything are new for me, but some things in America same my country. So I feel to like America. The Louisville City same my city in Vietnam. My city name Hue. It is very beautiful and quiet. Everybody in my city are friendly. The weather in the Hue is easy. So the tourist want to come to Hue when they visit my country.

QuynhOhau Nguyen, Enro

I am work in the Apparel Group. I make cuffs on shirt. My job is good because this is very fast. Right know, can t work fast, learn practice in practice room. I work to 5:30. This is good time for me. I have two children. They go to school and back at home when I am.

I am from Bosnia. In my country is war. In Louisville I live 10 month. Louisville is very nice city. My country before the war is been very nice country. In Bosnia I have my big house. In my house I have shop. I have car and everything that have people in America. Right now I must forget what I have in my country. I need miss in future. I won t have everything in America that I have in Bosnia. Today and every day my people die in my country. Many children died in Bosnia. This is not good time for my people. My brother and his family live in Denmark and my mother and father is in Croatia. I want my family come here.

Dinka Mehic, Enro

Women & Work

In Mexico the majority of the women stay in the home. They cook, clean, they take care of all the necessary things to do in the home but they don't get any money. In United States the women have more opportunities for example they work in factories, hospitals, restaurants.

In general the women get more involved in the professional jobs or any kind of job in the United States.

In Mexico there are only few women who work. Most of the jobs are related to offices, banks, schools, hospitals and some minor groups in other jobs.

In India some poor women work in construction and some other women work in heavy work, like in the fields.

A small group of professional women work in banks, in schools and some other group work like secretaries.

60% to 70% of the women work to make their own money and get their own things.

Gerardo Ayala (12/07/94), Juno

Colombia is in South America. My country is beautiful. The people have many problemes because of war. Maybe one day finish the war. In my country everybody will be happy.

Maria Isabel Roldan, Juno

Mexico is very beautiful because always, many people visiting different places. I miss my country because I was born there. When I came to this country I was feeling sad.

Maria Ramirez, Juno

Peru

My country is beautiful for tourism. My mother and my brothers and my sisters are in Peru. My country is in South America. Peru has economic problems. My country is small. I miss my country for my family and friends.

Jose Lopez, Juno

Friend - amigo, amiga

I'm from Mexico but I live in Chicago. I like Chicago but I miss Mexico because is my country. I like America because in America are my family and my husband. I have my job. I'm happy with my job. In my weekend I'm very happy with my family and my grandchildren. I love my family so much.

I work at Juno Lighting Inc. I'm an assembler. I work Monday to Friday from 7 am to 3:30 pm all the time. I operate machine all the time. I put the arana. I take my break at 9:15 am and my lunch at 11:50 for 30 minutes and then I take one more break at 1:35 for 10 minutes. I like the breaks because I eat or talk with my frends. I like out of the work because I go home with my family.

Maria C. Gonzalez (Fall 1994), Juno

Women's work in Mexico

Women work in the country side. They work in the house, clean, cook, take care of children. The women in the country side work for no pay, no money. Almost all the time the women work in the house.

Maria Huertero, Juno

In United States

I talk about the women in the United States. The women's work is different work, for example they work in factories, ware-house, stores. In the United States the women have too many opportunities. They have more benefits.

Maria Huertero (12/12/94), Juno

I from Mexico. I started in my job two years ago.

I have a job in United States.

I got my job. Nobody help me. I looking for myself.

I took application and fill out.

No one help me.

Pedro Mandujano, Juno

I m from Colombia.

My first job in Bogota was in the hospital. The women work in different jobs. We receive less salary. For years in my country, the women work only for food and dresses.

One group the women propose better opportunities for other women.

Maria Isabel Roldan, Juno

When I finished my college back in Mexico in 1986, I had in my mind to stay in some place in Mexico, but I never thought about United states.

After I finished, I went to apply in different cities like Lazaro Cardenas, Puebla, Monterrey, Toluca, but nothing happened. After that, I lived with my sister and my brother-in-law for almost 6 months. I was trying to get the papers to cross the border which finally I got.

After I got the papers, I decided to come to Chicago. I came to Chicago

because one of my brothers already lived in this city.

I came to Chicago on April 5 of 198" and when I just knew the city and I saw the houses I say to myself, "What ugly and old houses here are in Chicago."

When I came to Chicago, I thought about staying in Chicago for two or three years. But now I have been living in Chicago for almost 8 years and I don t know if I will go back to Mexico to stay. Right now I want to go to Mexico, but only for vacations or to visit the family.

I felt a little sad when I just got in Chicago because it was the first time that I separated from my family. But after a few months, everything was about the same.

On July 30, 198" I start to work in Juno and since that date I have been working in Juno.

After 8 years living in this city, I feel happy because I believe that United States is better for me and my prospects for my future.

Now Chicago is part of us, it is like part of the family and I just love Chicago. I love the museums, the lake, the loop area. OH! it is fantastic!

Gerardo Ayala (01/95), Juno

I'm going to tell you how I come to Illinois. My home town is Juarez Chihuahua Mexico, across the border from El Paso Texas. In 197"0 I was looking for a job in Juarez, but I didn t have any luck for many weeks. I would get up early in the morning, then go out of the home on the streets going to the places where I thought I could be hire. I filled out a lot of applications but never had an answer on those, so my mother wanted me to stay in El Paso working as a maid but I didn t like the idea. She found a job for me, but I couldn t make it. I stayed there only 2 days, then I come back home. I felt like I was in prison. I have never been there, but I think it s terrible when you have to be only inside of the home without seeing any body around, you only an old body. At that time, I was too young.

Even now, I think I couldn t make it if I had the necessity of doing it. I told the lady I wanted to go home. She said I could the weekend. I said no. Then she refused to pay for the 2 days of work. I said that s Ok. I'll go. I don t want your money. I'll go. She was angry. When I got home I told my mother, I don t want you buy anything for me, but I don t want to leave home.

A few months later she sent me to Chicago with my older sister. Then I found a factory job around people. Later I got married and I had my own family. Now I'm here, thanks to my mother. She pushed me to have a better future.

Manuela Ramirez, Phoenix Closure

Mexico Tourist Zone

Mexico is a country in North America. It has 32 states and one Federal District. There is a big variety of climates and animals.

Between the most important states Chiapas, Veracruz, Tabasco, Oaxaca, Michoacan, and Guerrero something they have is beautiful beaches and a lot of beautiful women.

The people's dream is to know those places. Only some get to know those places. When they see all cultures of animals, beaches and know well the Mexican people and others, they want to live in Mexico. But for different reasons, tourists, they can't do it. Especially on the tourist zone because they will get vacation every weekend.

Rodolfo Arendaño, Suncast

I'm Mexican.

I'm from Veracruz Mexico.

I would like to explain about my country.

OK, my country is on the border with the U.S.A. to the north and also borders with Guatemala to the South.

I think that my people are hard working and are always looking for something better for their children, their parents and for themselves. Well I can say more about my country but I think I need to learn more words in English.

I have been here for 4 years and can say that country is wonderful.

I would like to stay here forever. I like the people. They are great. I like where I live.

I would like Mexico and the U.S.A. in the future to always be friends forever and I will do everything that I can I promise.

I'm sure I will.

Thank you for listening to me.

Jose C. Ramirez, Suncast

I live in United States. I'm Mexican. Part of my family lives in Mexico and the others live here in United States. I have five years living here but I never forget my family. I always talk with them. I am happy living here but sometimes I find I long for my old friends and my country.

But right now I'm happy because I have new friends in my work and in my English classes. I have some time studying English. I think that is very important.

Jose Ortiz, Suncast

Walking

I like to walk. I walk in Aurora down the street. I drive to work to go to the store.

I drive.

Florentia Aguirre, Suncast

I came to the United States from Durango, Mexico in 1975 with high wishes to work and better my family. But the worse came to worse and in June the 2nd of 1976 I injured my arm. I went through four years without work. Luckily, I was receiving workman compensation. Thanks to God here the government helps you if you get injured. Then I sent for my family in 1978 so we could all be together. I put my children in school so they could study. That's how I did it and now they all know English. And now here I am with all my family very happy and thank God I'm now studying English.

Adan Rocha, Suncast

When I came to the U.S.A. the first thing I wanted to do was to find any job. My job is at Suncast I'm a grinder, and I drive the fork lift and study English.

Ruben Espinoza, Suncast

2-28-95

I think that the English classes that they give are very good the teachers are good with the students. They forget one thing. That is that most of the people who come here lack something. We lack grammar. Maybe for that reason we can't learn as much as you would like. I think that if we all knew grammar we could develop some good conversations with anyone that speaks English.

About work.

I think that everyone that works here is fleeing from a country in which our own government robs us. We come here to progress. Here they don't rob us but they don't give us the communication needed to succeed. We don't have the confidence to assume a new position knowing that we aren't prepared for it. They should give us any information in Spanish so that we can ask question if we don't understand something.

Guadalupe Guzman, Suncast

6-6-94

I want to write about Mexico. Why? Because I remember when I lived there with my family and sometimes I dreamed with my friends when I played with them, when I went to a party, when I went downtown, when I walked down the street and looked at the women. I remembered my whole life there and those happy moments I want to go to Mexico but I

don't know when I will be able to go but when I write this story it's almost as if I were in Mexico right now.

Raymundo Briones, Suncast

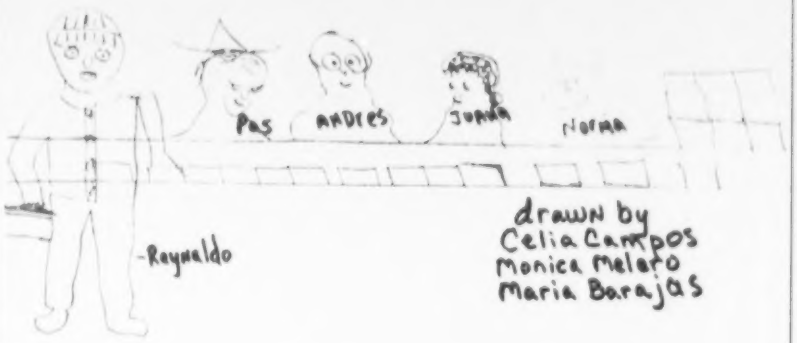
06-06-94

I live in United States. I'm Mexican. Part of my family lives in Mexico and the others live here in United States. I have five years living here but never forget my family. I always talk with them. I am happy living here but some times I find because I long for my old friends and my country.

But right now I am happy because I have English classes I have some times studying English. I think that it is very important.

Jose Ortiz, Suncast

They are working on the line. They are packing boxes. The line is moving too fast.



drawn by
Celia Campos
Monica Melero
Maria Barajas

Participating Companies

Suncast Corporation	•	*Batavia, Illinois*
Juno Lighting	•	*Des Plaines, Illinois*
Apparel Group/Enro	•	*Louisville, Kentucky*
Amalgamated Bank of Chicago	•	*Chicago, Illinois*
Libra Glove	•	*Chicago, Illinois*
Party Shoes	•	*Chicago, Illinois*
Refractory Products	•	*Elgin, Illinois*
Oxxford	•	*Chicago, Illinois*
Hartmarx	•	*Chicago, Illinois*
Owens-Corning	•	*Summit, Illinois*
Phoenix Closures	•	*Naperville, Illinois*
Roman Adhesives	•	*Calumet City, Illinois*
American Guard-It	•	*Chicago, Illinois*

Special Thanks

The Worker Education Program thanks the following
for their participation

The workers who contributed their work and
life stories to this anthology,
the participating companies employing the workers,
Jefferson Community College of the University of Kentucky,
Northeastern Illinois University,
and the publication design staff at CTC.

The program gratefully acknowledges the
Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union
for their unfledging support for educational and training
efforts for union members.

Special thanks goes out to the Educational Facilitators,
Aides, and the Program Coordinators:
Susan Keresztes-Nagy, Sabrina Budasi Martin,
Paula Garcia, and Assistant Director Sarah Moran.

Finally, the program expresses its gratitude to the
National Workplace Literacy Program of the
U. S. Department of Education for funding
and programmatic support.

CHICAGO & CENTRAL STATES JOINT BOARD ACTWU

This anthology was funded by a grant from the National Workplace Literacy Program of the United States Department of Education.

Design/Production: P. Stephens/K. Stein/R. Corona Photography: A. Barron/R. M. Bernstein/K. Castronovo/S. B. Martin/S. Moran/P. Stephens/S. Williamson

Northeastern Illinois University

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

CHICAGO TEACHERS CENTER
770 N. HALSTED, 4TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60622
312 733 7830

BEST COPY AVAILABLE